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Govt. proposes to shrink the width of PRR

BENGALURU
The State government now wants to commercially develop real estate along the proposed Peripheral Ring Road (PRR), shrinking its right of way to cross-subsidise the land acquisition cost pegged at ₹21,000 crore. » Page 2

'Trial run' begins on double-decker flyover

BENGALURU
Despite delays in completion and opening of the project, south India's first double-decker flyover in Bengaluru was finally opened for a 'trial run' by Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Wednesday. » Page 2

Karnataka halts jobs Bill as industry raises uproar

CM Siddaramaiah says the Bill mandating reservation for locals is 'still in an initial stage' and a decision will be taken after wide-ranging discussions; Minister allays concerns of industry heads

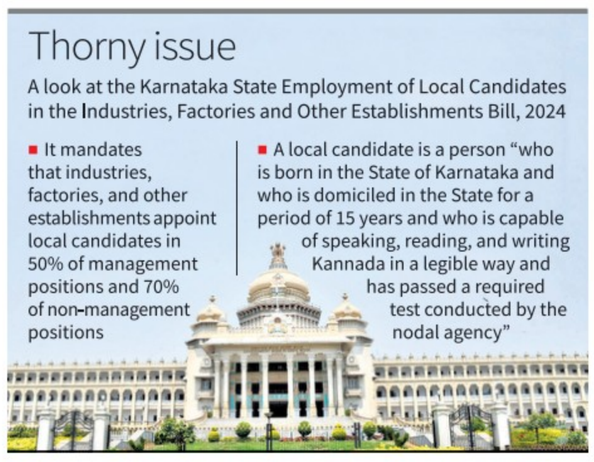
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As a draft Bill cleared by the Karnataka Cabinet mandating reservation for locals garnered adverse reactions from industry heads and trade bodies in the State, the government late on Wednesday announced that it had been "temporarily withheld" and a decision would be taken after a review.

Announcing the U-turn of his government on social media platform X on Wednesday night, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the Bill that aimed to provide reservation to Kannadigas in the private sector was "still in an initial stage".

He said a decision on the Bill would be taken after wide-ranging discussions on it in the next Cabinet meeting.

"The Bill is withheld until further consultations and due diligence. Industry leaders need not panic," Minister for Large and Medium Industries M.B. Patil said.



The Karnataka State Employment of Local Candidates in the Industries, Factories and Other Establishments Bill, 2024, was cleared in the Cabinet on July 15. It mandated that industries, factories, and other establishments appoint local candidates in 50% of management positions and 70% of non-management positions.

The provisions were met with stiff opposition from industry heads, while Kannada organisations welcomed the move.

Industry leaders, including Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and Mohandas Pai, and industry bodies such as NASSCOM and FKCCI opposed the Bill.

"As a tech hub we need skilled talent and whilst the aim is to provide jobs for locals, we must not affect our leading position in technology by this move. There must be caveats that exempt highly skilled recruitment from this policy," remarked Ms. Mazumdar-Shaw on X.

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Cattle transporters jumped off bridge, not assaulted: police

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

In the chargesheet on the deaths of three cattle transporters from Uttar Pradesh in Chhattisgarh's Arang last month, investigators have informed the court that the three were neither assaulted nor did they have any confrontation with the group of men who chased them.

Kirtan Rathore, Additional Superintendent of Police, said the cattle transporters jumped off the bridge after being chased by the men. He said the chargesheet in the case, registered as culpable homicide not amounting to murder, was filed before a local court last week. It names five men from either Raipur or Mahasamund.

On June 7, two cattle transporters, Guddu Khan, 35, and Chand Miya Khan, 23, were found dead under the Mahanadi Bridge connecting Arang on the outskirts of Raipur to neighbouring Mahasamund district, under suspicious circumstances after allegedly being chased by a mob. A third transporter, Saddam Qureshi, the sole eyewitness, was lying injured with the two. He died on June 18.

The Mahanadi Bridge in Chhattisgarh under which the victims were found. A.M.FARUQUI

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Funds diverted from Valmiki corpn. used during LS polls: ED

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), which is probing the scam at the State-run Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation Ltd., is claimed to have uncovered evidence to indicate that the diverted funds were used during the recent Lok Sabha elections. The ED has arrested former Minister B. Nagendra in connection with the scam.

The agency made a statement for the first time in the case on Wednesday. The ED said its probe revealed that approximately ₹90 crore was diverted to 18 fake accounts in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

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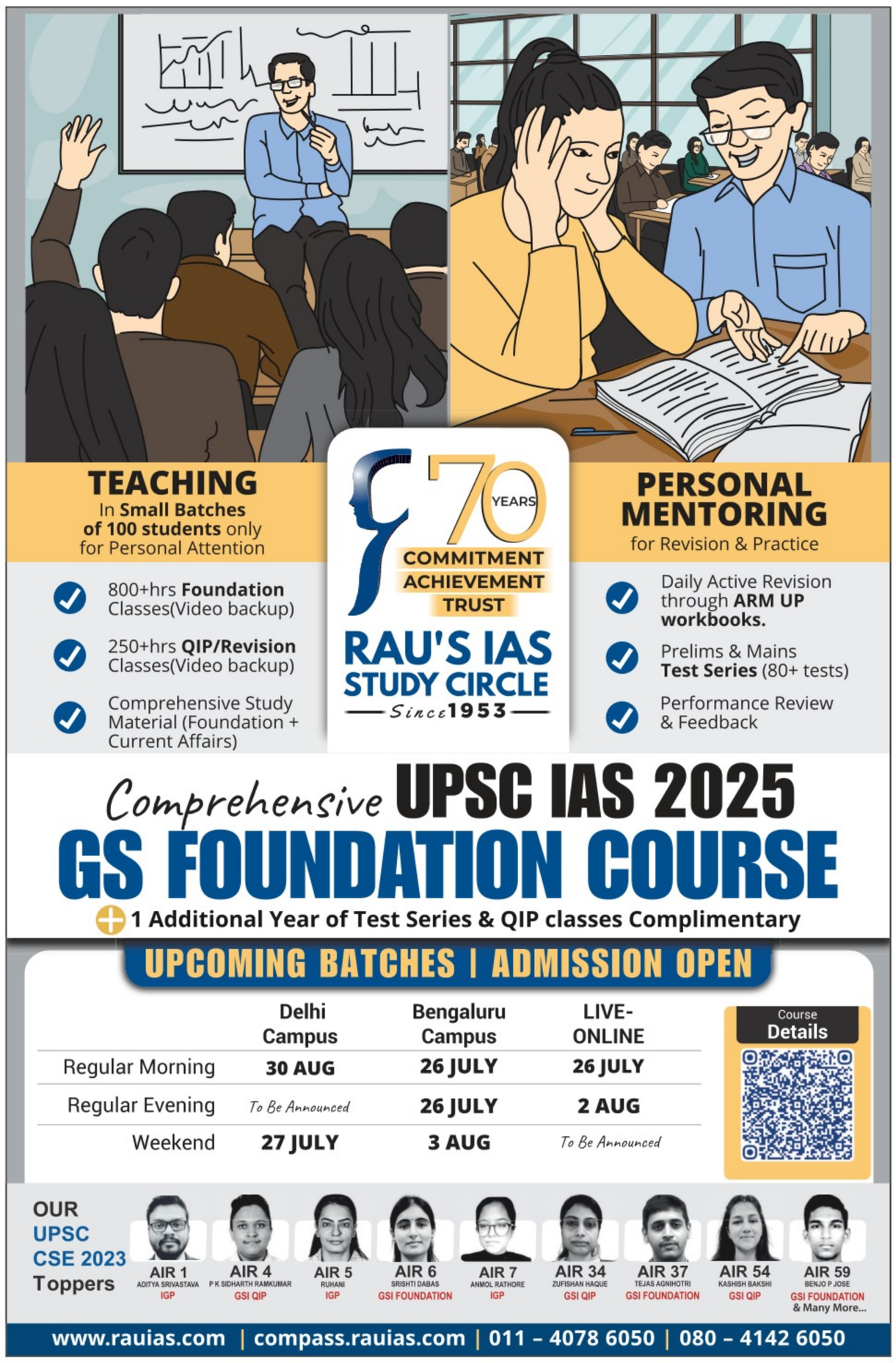

A BG-BGE

PHOTOS: EMMANUAL YOGINI & R.V. MOORTHY

I find Ashwin very unique

Former bowling coach looks back at his stint, the process that culminated with India winning the T20 World Cup, the interesting conversations and the road ahead for fast bowlers in the country

INTERVIEW

PARAS MHAMBREY

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

All's well that ends well. After ending his 31-month association as India's bowling coach, Paras Mhambrey - a member of Rahul Dravid's trusted lieutenants from the batch of 1996 - opens up on his stint and spells out the secrets of India's squad and some of the individuals. Excerpts

How would you sum up your stint?

For me, two and a half years would be satisfying on a personal front. I still remember taking up this assignment two and half years back when Rahul (Dravid) called me and asked me if i would be interested in doing the Indian team. I had worked with Rahul prior to that with the junior team and the A (set-up), so there was a great rapport with him and obviously based at the NCA also helped. It was a no-brainer for me. I just grabbed the opportunity, happy to work with the elite, the best in the world. It was rewarding. It was satisfying. A great opportunity to learn from the best.

The more you interact with someone like Ashley, Rohit (Sharma) or Virat (Kohli), there's a lot to learn about the batters' perspective... I feel Ash (R. Ashwin) is one of the greatest match-winners this country has produced. To be able to learn from him. To be able to have those conversations. I have grown as a person and as a coach as well.

It's been a wonderful stint, a lot of happy memories. Yes, there were challenges as well. I wouldn't deny that and glad that we overcome that, that one important ICC Trophy hurdle that really eluded us for such a long time. I am really glad and happy that finally we could win that tournament and that was the end of the association.

Can you elaborate on the three phases of your stint - the one till the 2022 T20 World Cup, then the 2023 World Cup and the last six months of extension?

Let's talk about the World Cup that happened in Australia. If you look at the way the semifinal went – when you lose in the manner we lost – people do talk. I do understand that a lot of people have an opinion and everyone was upset. Not only the public but the players themselves were very upset and that hurt us. People do conveniently forget also that the host nation didn't qualify (for the knockouts).

Can you imagine if that would have happened in India that the host nation wouldn't have qualified. We sat down and said what do we need to do differently. To reach the semifinals of the T20 World Cup in those conditions, you know we had done well, but we needed to think back and say what do we need to do differently. We sat and with Rahul and everyone said okay, what are the things that we need to work on and what are the pool available with us and how do we work

> Very few people who are at that stage of their career — someone with more than 500 Test wickets — who still come with the intensity of a rookie

there? So the plan actually started from there.

The next target was the 50-over World Cup, in India. We knew what the pressures were. We knew what we were about to encounter because when you interact with people, everyone wants to win the World Cup, right? You can't run away from it. How do you kind of cocoon yourself from the fact that yes, there is the World Cup coming in. Yes, it's in Indian conditions but eventually you will have to play good cricket.

The other nations are out there to win that cup. It's not only us that going to be participating, though. The challenge is going to be there. You had to look at the kind of bowlers you were looking for based on the venues because India is a unique nation. You go to north with the different soil, you go to south, there's a different soil, east has different soil. You play central or west, it's a very different soil, so the soils matter. We required a combination that will be able to play in every venue because we were the only team for whom, every game had a different venue. We were not based where in a particular stadium we play 3-4 games, we knew that we were playing in different venues. And we learned our lessons from 2022, which culminated with the T20 World Cup.

Do you recall any specific conversation with any of the seniors?

Just in general and the conversation doesn't have to be like a planned one. Just sitting over tea or coffee or whatever, just on the ground and know when people are bowling, just trying to understand them better as bowlers and persons. I find Ash very unique. Very few people who are at that stage of their career – someone with more than 500 Test wickets – who still come with the intensity of a rookie; shows in the amount of bowling he does. I found it unique and just the kind of understanding of what is it that drives him; to understand that comes every day, for 12 years of his career, he has done the same thing. He still bowls for hours in the nets. I have never seen any other bowler doing that. He is one of the very few bowlers to have reinvented himself, who has made himself... how do I put it... reliable in white-ball cricket. At a stage when everyone said no to an off-spinner in T20s, look at the way reinvented himself. You know, completely different. Made himself relevant to T20s. You see Ash coming up with different kind of balls - knuckle balls, carrom balls, what not! And you look at Test cricket, he is the king and no doubt about it.

Kuldeep's transformation has been phenomenal. What were the specifics you worked on together?

I remember the conversation we had when we went to Sri Lanka during the pandemic. We went there as support staff in 2021 when some of the others were in England. Kuldeep was out there, he was just not in the Indian team. He was not around the Indian circuit for a while. I remember having a little conversation with him, it was technical work. You could understand standing in the nets what he was trying to achieve and you could relate with the fact that he wasn't happy with the results. We discussed some technical stuff that may help him in rotating the arm better, cutting down slightly on his speed and hitting the desired length correctly. It actually started from there. Once you do that and you build that confidence with each other, the process just smoothens.

If you were to pick a bowler or two who managed to actually surprise you pleasantly by going a notch higher than you expected, who would it be?

For sure, Arsh (Arshdeep Singh) is right up there. I have seen Arsh since the Under-19 level. To be part of that under-19 team (in 2018), he was just a rookie coming in, just played one game in that World Cup in New Zealand, you could see a little glimpse of what he had. One was obviously the ability to shape the ball, which was very rare at that time. Someone who would swing and then later on, seeing him a lot with the T20 format. When I saw him playing for Punjab (Kings) in IPL for the first time, I thought he has turned up well. The way he showed the progress was definitely very impressive. He has a great head on his shoulder, ability to handle pressure and clarity of thoughts.

Every time he has the option to bowl a particular ball, he chooses the right ball and executes it well. He has worked on his bowling and it's great to see the kid emerging into one of your mainstays, especially in T20s.

Obviously Prasidh (Krishna) has a lot of potential out there. Kuldeep (Sen) was one of them, obviously being injured set him back. I am not talking too much about Avesh and Khaleel since they are part of the squad regularly, but some of these guys, Mayank (Yadav) in recent times has shown a lot of potential and we really need to manage him well. He has the unique ability of bowling accurate at high pace. Even Mohsin (Khan) is different, he has got a little extra something with his bounce. He might surprise you with extra pace and bounce as well. We need to we need to manage them going ahead.

And anyone who has either stagnated or dropped down the order over the last couple of years?

I won't say disappointed, but someone like Umran (Malik). We need to guide him. He needs to play for a state which has proper structure. Unfortunately, he is playing for a state where there is no proper structure. Playing for a state with a proper structure, playing a lot of cricket will definitely help him. We need someone to make that call for him and make sure that he plays for a state where he plays a lot of cricket. He has the potential, a quick guy who can bowl in the mid-140s. consistently, but someone to guide him at this stage and saying, okay, fine, just play cricket and how do we take this, take his game forward.

Others like (Kamlesh) Nagarkoti and (Shivam) Mavi have been lost in all this and maybe overlooked by the associations or over-bowled by the associations. Over-bowled is perhaps the right word, and that's a little concern because a lot of these guys, when they come into the India team, are really burned by their state teams. So we have to be a little smart with them.

Govt. proposes to shrink width of PRR, develop land commercially

Bangalore Development Authority failed to get any bidders for the tenders thrice, as no private players were ready to foot the land acquisition cost, according to sources

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government now wants to commercially develop real estate along the proposed Peripheral Ring Road (PRR), shrinking its right of way (RoW) to cross-subsidise the land acquisition cost pegged at ₹21,000 crore. The road has already been renamed Bengaluru Business Corridor (BBC) to reflect the same change in nature of the project, sources said.

The government has taken this decision after the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) failed to get any bidders for the tenders it floated thrice, as no private players were ready to foot the land acquisition costs, sources said.

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar recently asked the BDA to look at innovative financing options to make the PRR viable. As per the new proposal, the BDA will give the contract to private players under the build, own, operate and transfer (BOOT) model.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah chairing a meeting with Ministers and officials in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

RoW to shrink further

However, the proposal to develop land commercially along the PRR will shrink its RoW. The initial proposal for PRR had a RoW of 100 metres with eight lanes of the main road with three lanes of service roads on either side. This was shrunk to 75 metres a year ago.

Now, the RoW will shrink further - eight lanes of main road with service road on only one side of the road, which would add up to around 55 to 60 metres.

The remaining land of around 40 to 45 metres along the road is now proposed to be developed commercially.

The road project that connects Tumakuru Road and Hosur Road, cutting across Ballari Road and Old Madras Road, complementing the NICE Road alignment in the other half of the city, needs around 3,500 acres of land. Acquiring land has run into legal challenges and opposition from farmers. The government and the BDA will come out with a mode of compensation for land losers, sources said.

A presentation to this effect was made by officials at a meeting of city Ministers, Congress MLAs, and senior officials, chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, on Wednesday, sources said. The meeting discussed various other issues, including the proposed integrated waste management system (IWMS), skydeck, tunnel road and other key projects. Restructuring of the city administration did not come up for discussion, sources said.

Tunnel road from Silk Board to Hebbal planned

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government is now preparing to build a tunnel road of 18.5 km from Silk Board junction to Hebbal at an estimated cost of ₹12,000 crore. The presentation made at a meeting on Wednesday included the same. However, the government is still working out the financing model for the project and may go for a super annuity model, sources said.

Meanwhile, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) also proposed 12 new signal-free corridors by building flyovers and underpasses, all in the outer zones of the city. Some of the proposed corridors include K.R. Puram-Hope Farm, Hoodi-Hope Farm junction among others, sources said. The government is mulling over taking up four such corridors this year.

Amid delays, 'trial run' begins on south India's first double-decker flyover

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Despite delays in completion and opening of the project, south India's first double-decker flyover in Bengaluru was finally opened for a 'trial run' by Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Wednesday.

As part of the 'trial run' inauguration of the flyover, Mr. Shivakumar drove his car on the double-decker flyover from Ragigudda to Central Silk Board, accompanied by Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy.

Vehicles plying on the newly built double-decker flyover on Wednesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

₹449 crore flyover

The flyover, built by Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited's (BMRCL), spans 5.12 km and was constructed at a cost of ₹449 crore. BMRCL claims that the flyover is expected to ease the bottleneck at Central Silk Board junction.

"The new flyover features loops and ramps designed to facilitate signal-free travel from Ragigudda to HSR Layout and Hosur Road. It aims to provide a smoother and faster route for people heading towards K.R. Puram and Hosur Road, potentially reducing travel time by more than 30%," a BMRCL official said.

While the main structure of the flyover is complete, some ramps from HSR Layout connecting to the flyover towards Ragigudda and BTM Layout are still under construction. These sections, measuring 1.37 km, are expected to be commissioned by June 2025.

Public demand

Regarding the delay in the opening of the flyover, Mr. Shivakumar said, "I have requested the Central Minister as well. I don't want this project to go to waste; I wanted to conduct a trial run. There are still a few small patches that need to be completed. After that, we will have a formal inauguration. However, we are allowing the public to use it in the meantime."

Last week, leaders of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) held a protest near the flyover urging the government to open it to the public soon.

Delayed plans

According to BMRCL sources, the double-decker flyover was ready for inauguration, but the delay was owing to the inauguration by a joint representation from the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the Karnataka government for the event. "Given the public demand to open the flyover, it has been made accessible as a trial run. However, a formal inauguration will take place later in the presence of representatives from both the Union and state governments," sources said.

In March this year, BMRCL initiated a tender process for a feasibility study to construct double-decker flyovers along three Namma Metro corridors in Bengaluru under phase 3A. The proposed corridors include J.P. Nagar 4th Phase to Hebbal (29 km), Hosahalli to Kadabagere (11.45 km), Sarjapur to Ibbalur at ORR Junction (14 km), and Agara to Koramangala 3rd Block (2.4 km), which is part of the Sarjapur-Hebbal corridor (37 km), as stated in the notification.

Engineering student killed, another injured in accident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 20-year-old engineering student was killed and his friend injured, when a motorcycle crashed into their bike while the duo was trying to cross the airport road in Chikkajala on Tuesday night.

The deceased has been identified as Kiran, 20, from Afzalpur in Kalaburagi. He was pursuing his second-year Engineering in IT at a private college in the city.

According to the police, Kiran, along with his friend Chethan, had gone to a hotel to have dinner and were returning home. They were waiting at the divider to cross the road when another bike coming from Hunasamaranahalli crashed into Kiran's bike.

They were thrown up in the air and crashed on the road, sustaining injuries. Passers-by rushed the injured to the hospital where the doctor declared Kiran as brought dead. Chethan and another bike rider, identified as Vijay, sustained multiple injuries and are being treated at the hospital . The Chikkajala traffic police have booked Vijay under death due to negligence and rash and negligent driving and seized the bike for further investigation.

In a similar incident, a 35-year-old private firm employee was killed at Singasandra in Electronics City police station limits on Wednesday.

Dengue: More beds reserved in hospitals

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With the number of dengue cases nearing 11,000 in Karnataka, the Health Department has directed major government hospitals under its ambit in Bengaluru to reserve a specific number of beds for patients testing positive for the vector-borne disease. A circular to this effect was issued on Wednesday.

This is to ensure effective management of moderate and severe dengue cases that is crucial to prevent deaths, stated the circular.

"While 25 beds each should be reserved in K.C. General, C.V. Raman, and Jayanagar General hospitals, 10 beds each will be set aside in Yelahanka and K.R. Puram taluk hospitals. This is over and above the directions issued earlier on reservation of 10 beds each in Health Department hospitals in district headquarters and five beds each in taluk hospitals," the circular added.

Meanwhile, the State reported 534 new cases of dengue in the last 24 hours taking the total number of positive cases to 10,973. While a total of eight deaths have been reported this year so far, 14 patients are being treated in ICUs.

Protest after farmer wearing *dhoti* denied entry into mall

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Fakeerappa, a septuagenarian farmer who went to a mall in Bengaluru with his son to watch a movie at a multiplex, was allegedly denied entry owing to his attire – a *dhoti* and a white shirt.

The alleged incident occurred at G.T. Mall on Magadi Main Road around 6 p.m. on Tuesday.

His son Nagaraj recorded the conversation with the security supervisor at the entrance of the mall.

The supervisor can be heard saying that the rules of the mall do not allow entry to people wearing a *dhoti* and that he would allow the farmer if he wore pants. Speaking to mediapersons later, Mr. Nagaraj said as a son, he wished for his father to watch a film in a multiplex. Mr. Fakeerappa said, "How can people from the village let go of our *panche* (*dhoti*) and come dressed in pants to watch a film?"

The farmer who was denied entry to G.T. Mall being felicitated after a protest in front of the mall on Wednesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

> I have got all five of my children educated. They are well-placed now. But I cannot give up my culture and dressing style and start wearing pants just to go to a mall. Sadly, people feel inferior about our own dressing style and culture in our own State.
>
> **FAKEERAPPA,**
> A septuagenarian farmer

Management apologises

Activists from Kannada organisations staged a protest in front of the mall on Wednesday morning, with many wearing a *dhoti* and entering the mall as an act of dissent.

The farmer was also brought to the mall, where representatives of the mall's management apologised to him publicly and felicitated him. Earlier in the day, the security supervisor who did not allow Mr. Fakeerappa, also apologised for his actions.

Speaking to a mediapersons on Wednesday, Mr. Fakeerappa said he was illiterate but knew the value of education. "I have got all five of my children educated. They are well-placed now. But I cannot give up my culture and dressing style and start wearing pants just to go to a mall. Sadly, people feel inferior about our own dressing style and culture in our own State," he said.

In February this year, a farmer wearing a *panche* (*dhoti*) was stopped by security guards from boarding a Namma Metro train despite having a valid ticket. BMRCL dismissed the security supervisor who stopped the farmer.

'Lokayukta's inquiry officer found BBMP engineer guilty without any evidence'

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Observing that an inquiry officer with the Lokayukta had committed a glaring error in finding an engineer guilty of not acting against illegal construction, even though there was "no material to prove the guilt", the High Court of Karnataka has set aside the penalty imposed on the engineer based on recommendation in the enquiry report.

The court also held that both the disciplinary authority in the Public Works Department (PWD) and the Karnataka State Administrative Tribunal "failed to take note of the glaring illegality vitiating the enquiry report even though the same has been specifically highlighted by the aggrieved engineer."

A Division Bench, comprising Justice Anu Sivaraman and Justice Anant Ramanath Hegde, passed the order while allowing a petition by K.B. Narasimhamurthy, Assistant Executive Engineer with the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palika (BBMP).

Inquiry conducted

The inquiry by an officer of the Lokayukta was conducted on a complaint filed in December 2006 with the BBMP Commissioner and with the Lokayukta in April 2007, alleging that a person had constructed a building in Binnypete sub-division by encroaching upon government land and contrary to a sanctioned building plan.

The PWD, after receiving a report probe from the Lokayukta, had authorised the Lokayukta to hold the disciplinary inquiry against six officers of the BBMP, who were deputed from the PWD, under provisions of the Karnataka Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1957. The inquiry officer submitted a report in 2017 holding all the officers were guilty of not taking action against the illegal construction.

Acting on the inquiry report, the Bench noted the disciplinary authority of the PWD had imposed the penalty of withholding three increments without cumulative effect from the salary of the petitioner. As the tribunal in 2022 rejected the petitioner's plea against imposition of the penalty, he had knocked on the court's doors.

Service period

The Bench, from the records, noted that the inquiry officer, the disciplinary authority, and the tribunal ignored the fact that the petitioner served in the sub-division as an Assistant Engineer only between March 20, 2006, and September 22, 2006.

Referring to the Lokayukta's investigation report of 2007, which stated that the illegal building was constructed about five to six years prior to the date of complaint, the petitioner had explained to all the authorities that he was neither serving in the sub-division when the illegal construction took place nor when the complaint was lodged, to hold him responsible for dereliction of duty.

Holding that there was 'no evidence' before the Lokayukta's inquiry officer against the petitioners, the Bench directed the authorities to restore the increments within three months.

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, गुवाहाटी
ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, GUWAHATI
(A statutory body under the aegis of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GoI)
Changsari, Kamrup, Assam-781101, Website: www.aiimsguwahati.ac.in

Ref No- 2-378/2023-24/AIIMS/GHY/ESTT. /DEPUTATION / 996 Dated: 9th July 2024

VACANCY NOTICE FOR PROJECT CELL AND NON-FACULTY POSTS ON DEPUTATION BASIS

The AIIMS Guwahati invites applications in the pre-scribed proforma for the following posts on deputation basis.

Sl. No.	Name of the post	Group	Pay Scale	No. of Posts
1	Medical Superintendent	A	Level 14 as per7th CPC (Rs.144200- 218200) + NPA	01
2	Superintending Engineer	A	Level 13 as per 7th CPC (Rs 123100-215900)	01
3	Registrar	A	Level-12 as per 7th CPC (Rs. 78800-209200)	01
4	Executive Engineer (Civil)	A	Level-11 as per 7th CPC (Rs.67700 - 208700)	01
5	Executive Engineer (Electrical)	A	Level-11 as per 7th CPC (Rs.67700 - 208700)	01
6	Assistant Controller of Examination	A	Level-11 as per 7th CPC (Rs.67700 - 208700)	01
7	Nursing Superintendent	A	Level-11 as per 7th CPC (Rs.67700 - 208700)	02
8	Accounts Officer	A	Level-10 as per 7th CPC (RS. 56100-177500)	01
9	Assistant Accounts Officer	B	Level-7 as per 7th CPC (Rs. 44900-142400)	02
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11	Librarian Grade-I	B	Level-7 as per 7th CPC (Rs. 44900-142400)	01
12	Private Secretary	B	Level-7 as per 7th CPC (Rs. 44900-142400)	01
13	Personal Assistant	B	Level-6 as per 7th CPC (Rs. 35400-112400)	01
14	PA to Principal (S)	B	Level-6 as per 7th CPC (Rs. 35400-112400)	01
15	Pharmacist Grade-I	B	Level-6 as per 7th CPC (Rs. 35400-112400)	02
16	Sanitation Officer	B	Level-6 as per 7th CPC (Rs. 35400-112400)	01
17	Upper Division Clerk	C	Level-4 as per 7th CPC (Rs. 25500-81100)	04
Total No. of posts				23

For application form, eligibility criteria, desirable qualifications/experience and etc., please visit **www.aiimsguwahati.ac.in** & **www.pmssy-mohfw.nic.in**. Applications completed in all respect along with CRs, Vigilance clearance, Integrity Certificate etc. should be sent through proper channel to **Administrative Officer, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Guwahati, Changsari, Kamrup, Assam – 781101**. The last date for submission of application through proper channel will be 30 days from the date of publication of advertisement in Employment News.

Sd/-
Executive Director
AIIMS Guwahati

How the same ear senses murmurs and withstands deafening music

At the heart of our auditory system are intricate hair cells nestled within the cochlea. Each cochlea houses around 16,000 of these sensory cells, each with a cluster of hair-like projections called stereocilia. These stereocilia, arranged like a staircase from the shortest to the tallest, are key to hearing

T.V.Venkateswaran

A tree that is flexible enough to shake in a gentle breeze will undoubtedly be uprooted during a squall. On the other hand, a hardy tree that resists the force of a strong gale will hardly shudder during a gentle breeze. But unlike the tree, our ears can handle both ends of the spectrum.

The human auditory system, a marvel of nature, doesn't only detect the faintest sound signals but also demonstrates remarkable resilience in the face of thunderous noises. This adaptability allows us to distinguish the gentlest whispers from our loved ones and immerse ourselves in the thundering music of a nightclub.

Recent research has unveiled a fascinating mechanism that allows our auditory system to adapt to various sound environments. Just as our pupils dilate in the dark and contract in bright light, our ears have mechanisms that help us adjust to "see" in dim sound environments and protect us from harsh sound environments.

How do we hear?

At the heart of our auditory system are intricate hair cells nestled within the human cochlea. Each cochlea houses around 16,000 of these flask-shaped sensory cells, each with a cluster of hair-like projections called stereocilia. These stereocilia, arranged like a staircase from the shortest to the tallest, are the key to our hearing.

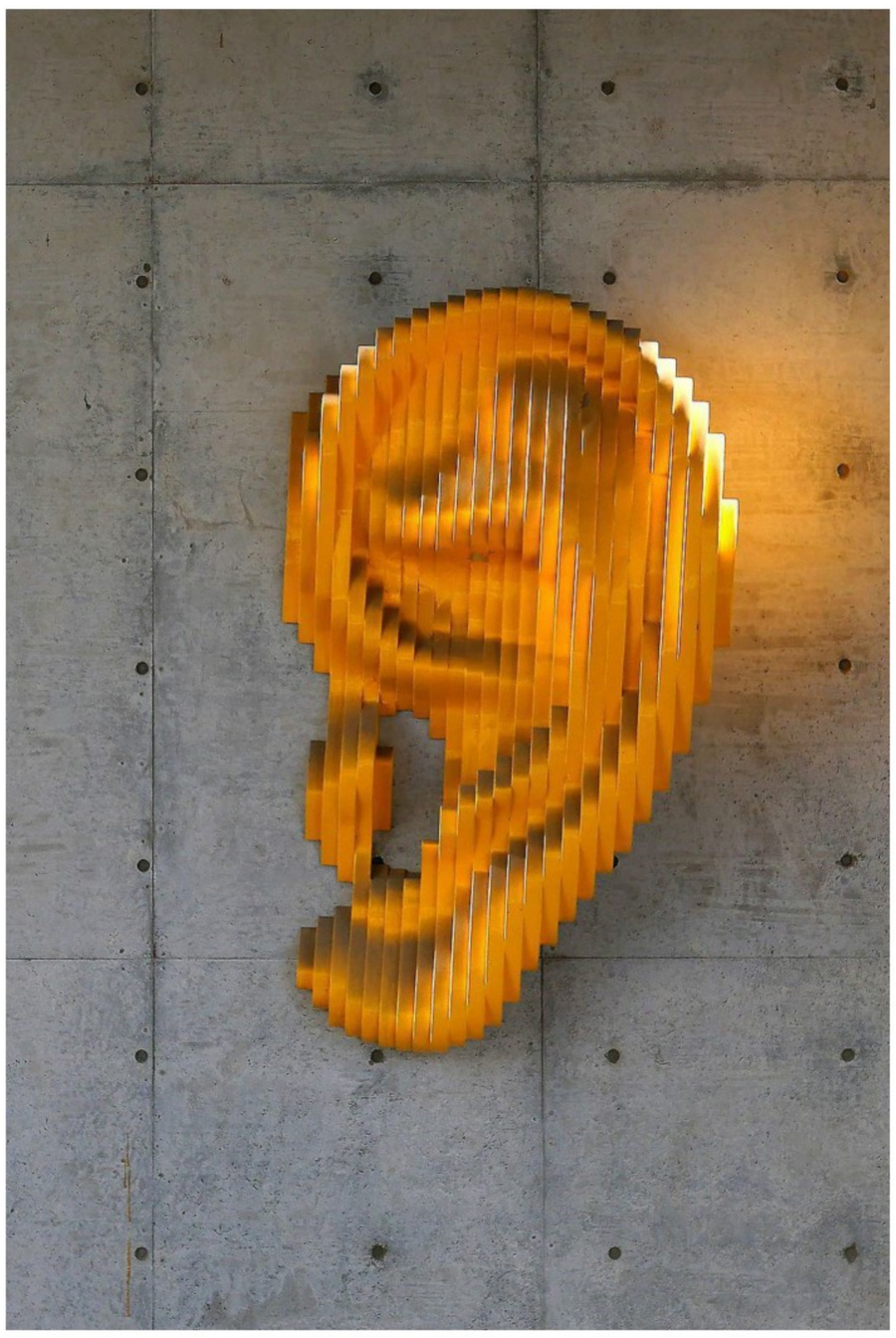
Two adjacent stereocilia are connected by a filamentous extracellular tether called a tip link. These tip links, functioning like a complex network of connections, are pivotal in our hearing process, converting sound waves into electrical signals our brain can interpret.

When sound waves reach the ear, they create vibrations in the inner ear fluid. These vibrations cause the stereocilia to bend, stretching the tip links that connect them. This stretching opens ion channels in the stereocilia that allow potassium ions to enter the hair cell and create an electrical signal.Nerve cells attached to the hair cells pick up this signal and send it to the brain, where it is interpreted as sound. This mechanism is similar to a microphone converting sound waves into electrical signals.

A mechanical circuit breaker

Humans can perceive sound in the range of 20 Hz to 20 kHz in frequency and 5-120 decibels (dB) in intensity. These sounds produce a force of 10-100 piconewtons (pN) on tip links. We must apply roughly one newton (N) of force to hold an apple or orange in our hands. One newton is equal to one thousand billion piconewtons. So we can imagine how small the force acting on the tip links is.

The auditory system relies on tip links. Each tip link consists of two proteins, cadherin-23 (CDH23) and protocadherin-15 (PCDH15). These proteins are at risk of breaking when exposed to loud noises. Surprisingly, this breaking is actually a protective mechanism that prevents damaging sounds from reaching the hair cells in the ear, which can't regenerate once they are damaged. But unlike hair cells, the tip links can regenerate, which helps preserve our hearing.



Humans can perceive sound in the range of 20 Hz to 20 kHz in frequency and 5-120 dB in intensity. Representative image. JAEE KIM/UNSPLASH

The tip links disassociate naturally in response to ambient sounds. Typically, a tip link complex's average lifetime is about 31.8 seconds. The tip links unbind and rejoin repeatedly and maintain the network in the hair cells.

The temporary hearing loss we might experience after a loud blast or blaring music is the result of losing multiple tip link complexes at the same time. Once the complexes re-form, hair cell function returns to normal levels. In effect, they function like a mechanical circuit breaker in the auditory system.

The lifetime of the tip links is related to the loudness of the sounds to which they are exposed. If the loudness is high, the tip links survive only for a short duration. They break fast. At 1 kHz, the tip links experience a tension of 5 pN. At a higher frequency of 4 kHz, the tension shoots up to 34 pN. The average lifetime of the tip link complex is just eight seconds when subjected to a force of 10 pN. This implies that the tip links must break up within minutes in noisy environments.

"The human ear is sensitive to even 5 dB, and the tip link that can respond to those low stimuli ought not to survive the piercing sound in a nightclub or orchestra, rendering most people deaf. Since this does not occur, it seems appropriate to expect a mechanism that safeguards the transduction at large forces," Sabyasachi Rakshit, a lead author of the new paper and associate professor in the Department of Chemical Sciences at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Mohali, said.

> The human auditory system doesn't only detect the faintest sound signals but also withstands thunderous noises. This allows us to distinguish the gentlest whispers and immerse ourselves in the music of a nightclub

Abhishek Chaudhuri, the other lead author and an associate professor in the Department of Physical Sciences at the same institute, added: "We were interested in finding the mechanism that enables tip links to survive forces of varying frequency and amplitude and capture the features that can explain uninterrupted hearing."

Testing tip links

We can determine the strength of a length of thread by securing one end with a clamp to the roof and hanging weights on the other end. Similarly, the researchers used an atomic force microscope (AFM) to secure the tip link complexes and observed the lifespan of the tip link: how long it survived without breaking when the amount of force was changed.

They found that a tip-link complex exhibits three distinct types of responses based on the force.

As anticipated, the complex's lifetime decreased when the applied force was low. But when the magnitude of the force was increased, the lifetime decreased. The complex was also surprisingly unaffected by mid-range tensile forces between around 36 pN and 70 pN.

When subjected to strong forces greater than 80 pN – representing intense sounds – the tip-links are disconnected in order to protect the hearing system. At even higher forces, the tip links only remain intact for a short period of time.

"The tip links act like the force sensor, balancing the incoming force and stepping in to protect us from the danger. This response at a louder noise level cuts off the transmission protecting the hair cells," Dr. Rakshit said.

Like a sensitive switchboard in our ears, the tip-link first detects the subtle mechanical signals from incoming sounds. It then converts them into electrical signals, allowing us to hear faint sounds. "However, this tiny protein-protein complex transforms into a gatekeeper when the sound is loud," Dr. Chaudhuri said. We discovered that tip-links act as force filters, selectively transmitting low forces to activate ion channels while blocking intermediate force levels. Moreover, when faced with extremely high forces, the tip-links disengage altogether, preventing damage to our hearing apparatus."

It is well-known that a mutation in the PCDH15 protein results in inherited deafness. "We conducted similar studies with mutated tip links, and found that the lifetime-force curve of the mutant is dramatically different," says Sabyasachi.

The lifetime of the tip link showed three kinds of responses across the force range for regular tip links. However, in the mutated tip link, the response is reduced with increased force across all the force ranges.

"We were not able to see the mid-range behaviour found in the normal tip link, in the mutated tip links," he added.

This implies that the ability of the normal tip link to respond to mid-range forces is crucial for hearing, and inherited deafness results from mutation-related loss of this function.

"By unravelling the intricate mechanisms of tip-links, we are paving the way for developing innovative strategies to protect against hearing loss caused by loud noises. With further research, we aspire to unlock more secrets of this fascinating biological system. This could potentially enhance the quality of life for millions affected by hearing impairment," Amin Sagar, a lead author and a former postdoc at IISER Mohali, said.

The team consisted of Nisha Arora, Jagadish P. Hazra, Sandip Roy, Gaurav K. Bhati, Sarika Gupta, K. P. Yogendran, Abhishek Chaudhuri, Amin Sagar, and Sabyasachi Rakshit. The study paper was published in the journal *Nature Communications*.

(T.V. Venkateswaran is a science communicator and visiting faculty member at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Mohali.)

A python at Closed Cycle Breeding International, a snake breeding farm in Nam Phi, in Thailand's northern Uttaradit province. The farm provides snake skins for the fashion market. AFP

Could pythons be a protein alternative?

Agence France Presse

In a warehouse in the lush farmlands of central Thailand, thousands of pythons lie coiled in containers.

They are being raised for their robust, diamond-patterned skins, which are sold to high-end European fashion houses for belts, bags, and handbags, but some scientists and industry insiders believe the snakes' true value could lie in their meat.

Demand for meat is growing globally, despite the carbon footprint associated with traditional livestock, and while a plant-based diet is often touted as the best alternative, some feel reptiles have been overlooked as an option.

Snakes can tolerate high temperatures and drought, reproduce quickly, and grow far faster than traditional sources of animal protein while consuming a lot less food.

Researchers estimate that China and Vietnam alone have at least 4,000 python farms producing several million snakes, mostly for the fashion industry.

"Python farming may offer a flexible and efficient response to global food insecurity," a study published earlier this year in the journal Nature said.

The researchers spent a year studying nearly 5,000 reticulated and Burmese pythons at two commercial farms in Vietnam and Thailand.

"They can survive for months on end with no food at all and no water, and literally they won't lose condition at all," said Patrick Aust, director of the African Institute of Applied Herpetology and one of the scientists involved in the study.

Researchers estimate that China and Vietnam alone have at least 4,000 python farms producing several million snakes, mostly for the fashion industry

The pythons were fed waste chicken and wild-caught rodents and offered a more efficient feed-to-meat ratio than poultry, beef, and even crickets.

Emilio Malucchi has a farm in central Thailand's Uttaradit with around 9,000 pythons.

Malucchi, who moved to Thailand from Italy with his family more than four decades ago, has had little success convincing people to take up snake meat, and most of what he produces is either discarded or goes to fish farms.

"I eat my snakes because I know what they eat and how I raise them," he said.

Wild python has long been eaten throughout Southeast Asia, but the meat has yet to attract widespread international interest despite offering a chicken-like texture low in saturated fats.

The climate impact of meat has been extensively documented, with the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change noting that meat from grazing animals has been "consistently identified as the single food with the greatest impact on the environment."

While the UN and climate activists advocate moving to a more plant-based diet, the OECD estimates demand for meat will increase by 14% by 2032.

Meanwhile, drought and extreme weather are making traditional farming increasingly difficult in many parts of the world where the need for protein is urgent.

Protein-energy malnutrition, sometimes called protein-energy undernutrition, caused nearly 190,000 deaths globally in 2021, according to the Global Burden of Disease study.

That paradox has spurred a push to explore meat alternatives, from edible insects to lab-grown meats.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

The odoriferous life of agarwood

Vasudevan Mukunth

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1

Agarwood is a fragrant wood produced naturally by trees belonging to a few genera. The principal among them is _____, trees of which are distributed around South and Southeast Asia. The genus name in Latin roughly means "eagle." Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 2

The process by which these trees produce agarwood, a.k.a. agalloch, begins when they are infected by a particular fungus. Name the fungal species.

QUESTION 3

Name the tree that provides most of the world's agarwood, which is used to make perfumes, incense sticks, and other aromatic products. The first half of its binomial nomenclature is the answer to Q1. It is also the state tree of Tripura. What is the scientific (species) name of this tree?

QUESTION 4

Due to unchecked demand for agarwood, trade in the tree that produces it (in Q3) and its products is protected by a multilateral treaty called _____. This treaty also requires countries that ratify it to ensure agarwood isn't harvested in a way that affects its survival. Name the treaty.

QUESTION 5

Researchers have found several compounds in the oil extracted from agarwood using steam distillation. Many of them belong to the class called Z. These compounds are derived from another compound that's the main component of natural rubber. A Z compound is also responsible for eucalyptus's unique fragrance. Name Z.

Answers to July 16 quiz:

1. Mathematicians who first developed a reasoned answer to the problem of points – **Ans: Blaise Pascal and Pierre de Fermat**
2. The mathematical foundation for statistics – **Ans: Probability**
3. Aristotle's hypothesis that Pascal overturned in 1647 – **Ans: Horror vacui**
4. Theorem that Andrew Wiles solved in 1994 – **Ans: Fermat's Last Theorem**
5. Subject of Fermat's principle that takes the shortest path – **Ans: Ray of light**

Visual: **Voltaire**

First contact: Irfan Ali | Pratyush Shukla | Seema Das

Visual: Over time, the resin saturates a part of the tree called X (a.k.a. Y), shown above. This X (or Y) is called agarwood. Name X and Y. This woody part of the tree derives one of its names from its location rather than its function. RBREIDBROWN

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Very few vehicles have installed panic button and tracking device

It was mandated that from December 1, 2023 all public transport vehicles and those operating under a national permit in Karnataka have to install a vehicle location tracking device and an emergency panic button, and the deadline is this November

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

The deadlock over installing vehicle location tracking (VLT) devices and emergency panic buttons in public service vehicles by this November 30 remains unresolved. With both vehicle owners and the State government holding firm, only 1,979 out of 6,04,000 vehicles have been found to be compliant with the mandate, just four months before the deadline.

Sources in the department suggest this situation might mirror the delays seen with the high-security registration plate (HSRP) implementation.

To enhance safety, the government mandated that all public transport vehicles and those operating under a national permit in Karnataka had to install a vehicle location tracking device and an emergency panic button from last December 1 and the deadline set is this November.

Citing the high cost and even the lack of awareness about the rule, vehicle owners and drivers have not installed vehicle location tracking devices and panic buttons. FILE PHOTO

However, citing the high cost of this equipment and even the lack of awareness about the rule, vehicle owners and drivers have not installed it. The owners were granted a one-year grace period to comply with this requirement.

"According to the rule, Regional Transport Offices will withhold the renewal of fitness certificates for public service vehicles if owners fail to install the mandated devices with panic buttons within the specified timeframe," a Transport Department official said.

To create more awareness, the official said that the Transport Department has established a 24-hour command and control centre to raise awareness and address issues facing public transport vehicles. "Owing to inadequate response from vehicle owners and drivers in installing panic buttons and VLT devices, we plan to launch awareness initiatives throughout the State," the official added.

It was mandated that from last December 1, all public transport vehicles and those operating under a national permit in Karnataka had to install a vehicle location tracking device and an emergency panic button and the deadline was this November.

Meanwhile, private transport associations argue that the government's mandate requiring the purchase of devices exclusively from one of the 13 approved vendors places an undue financial burden on them, prompting them to seek government assistance.

K. Radhakrishna Holla, president of the Karnataka State Travel Operators' Association, said: "The requirement to replace current devices will impose a financial strain on owners and drivers. While many cab operators have already installed GPS devices voluntarily to combat illegal activities and improve passenger safety, the new mandate to purchase VLT devices and panic buttons exclusively from government-approved vendors will increase costs, particularly affecting less affluent cab drivers. Hence, I appeal to the government to provide financial assistance through the Nirbhaya scheme."

Vehicle owners can purchase the devices from approved manufacturers at a cost of ₹7,599 (excluding GST) from among 13 empanelled vendors. "The VLT device and panic button kit available in the market typically costs between ₹4,000 and ₹5,000, whereas the unit supplied by the Transport Department's approved vendors costs ₹7,599. It begs the question why we should bear such high costs. The Transport Department should ensure that regulations do not impose unnecessary financial burdens on us by mandating expensive purchases like these," said Keshav K., a cab driver from Rajajinagar.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said: "We have been raising awareness about the installation of VLT devices and panic buttons to ensure passenger safety. However, not many are installing the equipment. We will continue our awareness efforts and will also focus on RTO-wise awareness campaigns."

From Page One

Funds diverted from Valmiki corpn. used during LS polls: ED

A file photo of former Minister B. Nagendra being taken into custody by the Enforcement Directorate in Bengaluru.

The diverted funds were then laundered through fake and shell accounts, with cash and bullion dispersed among the accused, the ED added.

For liquor

The agency further claimed that it had uncovered that "a substantial amount of funds were utilised to procure a significant quantity of liquor just prior to the general elections. Additionally, high-end vehicles, including a Lamborghini, were purchased using proceeds from the scam.

"During search operations at the premises of Mr. Nagendra and Basanagouda Daddal (corporation chairman), the ED recovered incriminating documents linking them to the handling of diverted funds during the recent elections. Additionally, associates closely connected to Mr. Nagendra were implicated in the fund diversion and cash management. Incriminating evidence related to the handling of these illicit funds was also discovered at the residence of the corporation's chairman," the ED said in its statement.

Nagendra's wife questioned

Meanwhile, officials questioned Mr. Nagendra's wife Manjula regarding certain transactions reportedly made through her accounts, for over eight hours at the ED office at Shantinagar on Wednesday.

Amid speculations of her arrest, the ED let her go. The ED custody of Mr. Nagendra ends on Thursday.

Take strict action against provocative social media posts, says DG&IGP Alok Mohan

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Reiterating Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's advice at a recent senior police officers' meet, Director-General and Inspector-General of Police Alok Mohan on Tuesday issued a circular directing the police to initiate strict action against those making hate speeches and provocative statements on social media.

The order was issued to all police officers above the rank of Superintendent of Police (SP) in districts and Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCP) in commissionerates, to keep a check on provocative and communal social media posts.

Alok Mohan

"Emphasis should be placed on monitoring social media to curb fake news and where needed, *suo motu* action should be taken," the order noted. "Regular peace meetings and public interactions (janasamparka) should be held, and immediate action should be initiated to trace missing women and children. Random and surprise inspections should be held in prisons," the order stated.

Police officers and personnel were directed to patrol public places in uniforms between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. to ensure the safety of students, especially girls.

The order noted that every SP or DCP should visit at least one police station in their jurisdiction every day. "During the visit, the officers should interact with the public and the staff and address their issues," the order stated.

Similarly, Inspector-Generals of Police (IGPs), Deputy Inspector-Generals of Police (DIGs), and Additional Commissioners of Police in Bengaluru were directed to visit stations every day to examine the day-to-day operations.

He also directed SPs, DCPs, and other officers to visit schools and colleges and create awareness on the drug menace. "All personnel should be aware of the e-beat system and it should be implemented effectively," the order noted.

Cry Me A River, a talk on Cauvery dispute in city today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Cry Me A River, a talk by T. Ramakrishnan, Senior Associate Editor of *The Hindu*, will be held on Thursday at the Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. The talk will centre around his monograph, *Cauvery: A Long-Winded Dispute,* which has recently been published by *The Hindu* Group.

Dissect dispute

At this event, Mr. Ramakrishnan, a water issues specialist, will dissect Karnataka and Tamil Nadu's complex dispute over the the Cauvery, tracing its history and offering likely solutions.

The talk is free and open to all on a first-come first-serve basis. Interested participants can preregister at bangaloreinternational-centre.org/event/cry-me-a-river.

Man gives daughter-in-law a new lease of life

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Twenty-nine-year-old Shravani (name changed) from a village in Shivamogga district, who battled life-threatening kidney failure, was saved by her 63-year-old father-in-law who donated his kidney.

The transplant was done for free thanks to the collective efforts of Manipal Hospital Hebbal and The Rotary Foundation's (TRF) Global Grant Lift-Up Project.

Ms. Shravani faced severe health challenges post-pregnancy, when she was diagnosed with advanced kidney disease. With both kidneys failing, she was put on dialysis twice a week. She continued the treatment despite logistical and financial barriers. The arduous travel from her village to the city, compounded by the lack of local nephrology expertise, only intensified her struggle.

The family was already reeling under financial and emotional pressure. Her husband had suffered a debilitating stroke, leaving him dependent and unable to contribute to household responsibilities or consider organ donation himself. She was the family's primary caregiver and also worked a part-time job to support her father-in-law, the primary breadwinner of the family.

At this juncture, her father-in-law came forward to donate his kidney. Despite this decision, the family's financial constraints seemed an insurmountable obstacle.

Manipal Hospital, Hebbal, partnered with TRF's Global Grant Lift-Up Project. Under this project, funding is provided to a minimum of 100 free transplants for underprivileged women and children. This is contingent on having legal living donors volunteering to donate but who could not financially afford the treatment and transplant costs.

A team of doctors from the hospital, led by Deepak Kumar Chithralli, Senior Consultant - Nephrologist and Transplant Physician, and Ajay S. Shetty, Head of Urology, Renal Transplantation and Robotic Surgery, performed the transplant on July 3. The patient was discharged on July 11.

Security guard bludgeoned to death

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 25-year-old security guard was bludgeoned to death allegedly by his friend over a trivial row at a waste segregation centre in Upparpet on Wednesday.

The police recovered the body of Padam Kumar and shifted it to a hospital for post mortem, while efforts are on to track down the suspect, identified as Vicky.

According to the police, the duo was from Bihar and worked in the same centre.

Film director on the run for 20 years held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The CCB officials on Wednesday tracked down a 46-year-old Kannada film director who was allegedly involved in a murder case and was on the run for the last 20 years.

Based on specific inputs, the CCB officials, who were following up on pending cases, tracked down Gajendra alias Gaja and remanded him in judicial custody.

Murder case

According to the police, Gajendra was allegedly involved in the murder case of rowdy Kottaravi in Wilson Garden in 2004. Gajendra was accused number 8 in the case.

After being arrested and spending one year in prison, the accused came out on bail and later escaped to a neighbouring State. The court had issued a non-bailable warrant against him.

Gaja, after escaping to the neighbouring State, changed his identity and continued working in the film industry, a senior police officer said.

RoB projects approved for Tumakuru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Union Minister of State for Railways V. Somanna has approved the construction of five railway overbridges (RoB) in Tumakuru district.

The Ministry of Railways has issued an order for these projects, which are set to enhance connectivity and ease traffic congestion in the district.

The Ministry has sanctioned the construction of the five RoBs at an estimated total cost of ₹350 crore.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (July 18, Thursday), the following articles are available:

- On political representation of women **bit.ly/polrepwomenexp**
- How the same ear senses soft murmurs and loud music **bit.ly/earflexibility**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, JUL. 18		
RISE	06:02	SET 18:50
RISE	16:06	SET 02:41
FRIDAY, JUL. 19		
RISE	06:02	SET 18:50
RISE	17:07	SET 03:36
SATURDAY, JUL. 20		
RISE	06:03	SET 18:49
RISE	18:06	SET 04:36

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	24
Mysuru	26	21
Bengaluru	28	20

Bengaluru Today
27°C A comfortable weather to prevail. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C The weather will be comfortable with cloudy sky. Spell of light rain and thundershower with gusty winds may occur.

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THE HINDU
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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The child marriages prevented via panchayat help

59,364 Over 160 civil society organisations across India successfully prevented 14,137 child marriages in 2023-2024 through legal interventions. PTI

Job reservation announced by Haryana for Agniveers

10 in per cent. The Haryana government announced reservation for Agniveers in services such as police, forest guards, jail wardens. An age relaxation of three years will be made in Group C and D posts. PTI

Tea exports from India remain stagnant in 2023

231.69 million kg. Tea exports from the country remained almost stagnant in 2023, as exports of the beverage during 2022 were 231.08 million kilograms (kg). PTI

The children rescued under 'Operation Nanhe Farishtey'

84,119 children. Operation Nanhe Faristey is a mission dedicated to rescuing children in need of care and protection across various Indian Railway zones. PTI

The rise in the exports of oilmeals in the month of June

20 in per cent. India's exports of oilmeals rose in June to 3.35 lakh tonnes mainly due to a surge in shipments of soybean meal, according to the SEA. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

On political representation of women

Have women been fairly represented in Parliament in independent India? Should political parties provide internal reservations to increase womens' political participation? When will the 106th constitutional amendment be implemented?

EXPLAINER

Rangarajan. R

The story so far:
In the recently concluded general elections in the U.K., a record 263 women MPs (40%) have been elected to the House of Commons. The South African National Assembly has around 45% women representation, while the U.S. House of Representatives has 29%. Universal suffrage was achieved in various parts of the world after prolonged political movements. New Zealand as a self-governing unit under British rule was the first to grant universal women suffrage in 1893. The U.K., itself provided all its women the right to vote only in 1928. The U.S., granted equal voting rights through the nineteenth amendment only in 1920.

What about women representatives in independent India?
India as a sovereign republic provided the right to vote for all its women right from the first general elections in 1952. While the right to vote was provided to all women since the commencement of the Constitution, the representation of women in the Lok Sabha and State legislative assemblies has been far from satisfactory. The percentage of women MPs in the Lok Sabha had been very low between 5% and 10% till 2004. It rose marginally to 12% in 2014 and currently stands at 14% in the 18th Lok Sabha. The representation in State Legislative Assemblies is even poorer with the national average being around 9%.

The 73rd and 74th amendments of the Constitution in 1992/1993, provided for one-third reservation for women in panchayats and municipalities. However, attempts between 1996 and 2008 to provide similar reservation in the Lok Sabha and assemblies were unsuccessful.

How do women MPs fare worldwide?
Women representation in parliament varies across different democracies. It is a perennial issue to promote higher representation for women who constitute half the population in all countries. The important methods used across the world to ensure higher representation of women are (a) voluntary or legislated compulsory quotas for candidates within political parties and (b) quota in parliament through reservation of seats. Quotas within political parties provide more democratic choice to voters and allows flexibility to parties in choosing women candidates. Opponents of having a reserved quota in parliament for women argue that it would be seen as women not competing on merit. As the seats reserved for women would be rotated after each delimitation, it may also reduce the incentive for MPs to work hard to nurture their constituencies. The table above provides a snapshot of women's representation in some democracies across the world. As can be seen, countries like Bangladesh and Pakistan that have quotas in parliament fare poorer than countries with political party quotas.

Long fight: From a protest march demanding the women's Reservation Bill in 2016. FILE PHOTO

Voluntary or legislated quotas within political parties are unlikely to yield the desired representation in our country

What is the 106th amendment?
As on April 2024, India ranks 143 in the list of countries in the 'Monthly ranking of women in national parliaments' published by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, a global organisation for national parliaments. The Trinamool Congress has the highest proportion of women MPs in the current Lok Sabha at 38%. The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and principal Opposition Congress party have around 13% each. Naam Tamilar Katchi, a State party in Tamil Nadu, has been following a voluntary quota of 50% for women candidates in the last three general elections.

However, voluntary or legislated quotas within political parties are unlikely to yield the desired representation in our country. This is why the Parliament through the 106th constitutional amendment, in September 2023, provided for one-third reservation of seats for women in the Lok Sabha and State legislative assemblies. This would ensure a fair representation of women in legislatures that would increase gender sensitivity in parliamentary processes and legislation. It would also hopefully increase the number of women Ministers in the Centre and States.

This reservation shall come into effect based on the delimitation exercise after the relevant figures of the first Census conducted after the commencement of this act is published. Hence, the Census which is overdue since 2021 should be conducted without any further delay to ensure that this reservation is implemented starting with the general elections in 2029.

Rangarajan. R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Polity Simplified'. He currently trains civil-service aspirants at 'Officers IAS Academy'. Views expressed are personal.

Country wise data on women representation*

Women representation in parliament varies across different democracies

Moving forward: Trinamool Congress MPs take selfies at the Parliament House complex during the first session of the 18th Lok Sabha, on June 25. PTI

Country	% of elected women	Quota in Parliament	Quota in political parties
Sweden	46%	No	Yes
South Africa	45%	No	Yes
Australia	38%	No	Yes
France	38%	No	Yes
Germany	35%	No	Yes
U.K.	40%	No	Yes
U.S.	29%	No	No
Pakistan	16%	Yes	No
Bangladesh	20%	Yes	No

*(as of September 2023) | Source: PRS legislative research

THE GIST

- India as a sovereign republic provided the right to vote for all its women right from the first general elections in 1952.
- The important methods used across the world to ensure higher representation of women are (a) voluntary or legislated compulsory quotas for candidates within political parties and (b) quota in parliament through reservation of seats.
- As on April 2024, India ranks 143 in the list of countries in the 'Monthly ranking of women in national parliaments' published by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, a global organisation for national parliaments.

What does Maharashtra's Public Security Bill stipulate?

What are the concerns? Which other States have enacted laws to curb Naxalism in urban areas?

Abhinay Deshpande

The story so far:
On July 11, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led MahaYuti government tabled the Maharashtra Special Public Security (MSPS) Act, 2024, aimed at curbing the 'menace of Naxalism' in urban areas. The provisions of the proposed Bill, which allows the State to declare any organisation as 'unlawful' with offences categorised as cognisable and non-bailable, has raised concerns and is being dubbed the 'urban naxal' law. The Maoist-hit States of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh and Odisha have already implemented Public Security Acts to prevent unlawful activities.

Why was the Bill proposed?
According to Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who tabled the Bill in the State Assembly, Naxalism is not limited to rural areas, but is increasing in urban areas through frontal organisations. These active frontal organisations of Naxal groups give constant and effective support in terms of logistics and safe refuge to its armed cadre, he said. Citing 'safe houses and urban dens of the Maoist network in the cities of Maharashtra,' the senior BJP leader said such unlawful groups 'propagate their ideology of armed rebellion against the constitutional mandate and disrupt public order in the State. He further stated that unlawful activities of such frontal organisations need to be controlled through effective legal means and that existing laws are ineffective to tackle the issue.

"In the absence of a similar law - which is in force in AP, Telangana, Chhattisgarh and Odisha - such organisations are active in Maharashtra. Therefore, the government considers it expedient to enact a special law for more effective prevention of unlawful activities," said Mr. Fadnavis, who is also the guardian minister of the Naxal-affected Gadchiroli bordering Chhattisgarh and Telangana.

How different is it from the UAPA?
The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA) is invoked in cases related to Naxalism and terrorism. This law empowers the state to classify organisations as 'unlawful associations.' Both the laws are almost the same. However, in the MSPS Act, an advisory board of three persons who are or have been qualified to be appointed as judges of the High Court shall oversee the confirmation process, while under UAPA, a tribunal led by a High Court judge verifies the State's declaration.

In addition to the UAPA, the State also enforces the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act, 1999 (MCOCA) to address perceived extreme situations involving individuals labelled as 'urban Naxals'. If the proposed legislation is passed, it would allow the State police and security agencies to arrest individuals without a warrant and often without informing them of the charges. All offences under this Act would be cognisable and non-bailable.

What are its key provisions?
The MSPS Act empowers the State to designate any suspected 'organisation' as an 'unlawful organisation' and outlines four offences for which a person may be penalised – (i) being a member of an unlawful organisation, (ii) being a member and raises funds for an unlawful organisation or harbours any member of the unlawful organisation, (iii) whoever manages or assists in the management of an unlawful organisation, or promotes or assists in promoting a meeting, and (iv) whoever commits or abets or attempts to commit or plans to commit any unlawful activity. These offences carry sentences ranging from two to seven years, along with fines between ₹2 lakh and ₹5 lakh.

What is the stance of the Opposition?
Former Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan has criticised the measure as 'draconian,' arguing that existing laws are sufficient to address the Naxal issue. "By introducing the bill in the Assembly first instead of the Council, the government clearly shows a lack of interest, while Delhi (Union government) is pressuring them to act. This is simply an attempt to suppress protests....We already have laws with the necessary provisions; why introduce another? This is a 'draconian' measure, and we strongly oppose it," he stated. Mr. Chavan also noted that the Bill would automatically lapse with the dissolution of the Assembly, asserting that if the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) returns to power, it would not reintroduce the Bill.

THE GIST

- On July 11, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led MahaYuti government tabled the Maharashtra Special Public Security (MSPS) Act, 2024, aimed at curbing the 'menace of Naxalism' in urban areas.
- According to Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Naxalism is not limited to rural areas, but is increasing in urban areas through frontal organisations. These active frontal organisations of Naxal groups give constant and effective support in terms of logistics and safe refuge to its armed cadre, he said.
- Former Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan has criticised the measure as 'draconian,' arguing that existing laws are sufficient to address the issue.

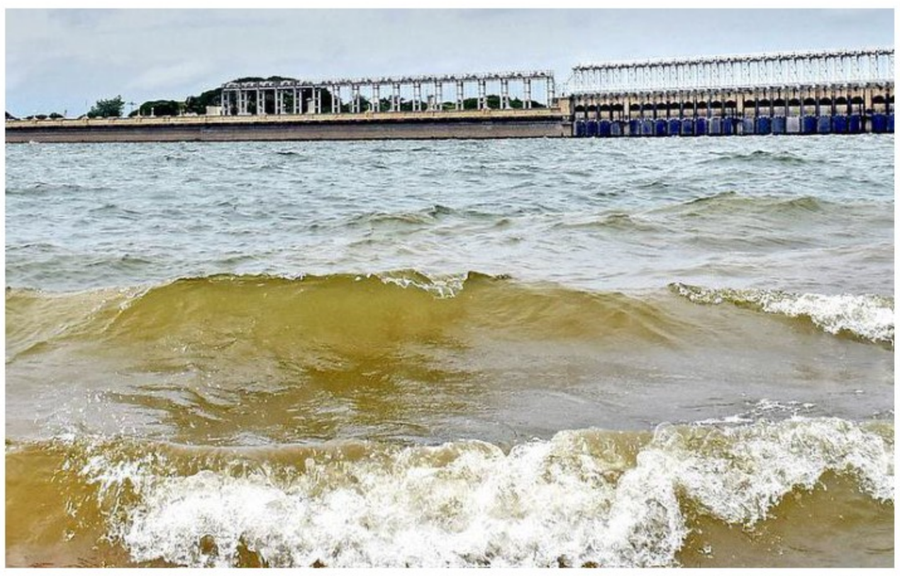
Monsoon vigorous in Kodagu; Cauvery in spate at many places

Cumulative inflow into the Krishnaraja Sagar and Kabini reservoir is in excess of 70,000 cusecs

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The monsoon is in a vigorous phase in Kodagu for the last few days as a result of which the Cauvery is in spate at many places.

The India Meteorological Department has issued a red alert for Kodagu valid for the next two days. Incessant rain at Bhagamandala has led to the overflowing of the Cauvery at Triveni Sangama and heavy rain in the catchment area of the Harangi – a tributary of the Cauvery – has also augmented the inflow to the reservoir at Kushalnagar.



The inflow to the Krishnaraja Sagar on Wednesday morning was at the rate of 36,674 cusecs and the water level was at 110.6 ft as against the maximum level of 124.8 ft. M.A. SRIRAM

Above danger level

The district received 78.8 mm of rainfall during the 24 hours ending at 8.30 a.m. on Wednesday and there was no respite from rain in the Cauvery catchment area, including Bhagamandala which received 150 mm of rainfall. Shanthalli, which was battered by heavy rain on Tuesday and received 230 mm of rainfall, continued to bear the brunt of nature's fury and registered 234 mm of rainfall during the 24 hours ending at 8.30 a.m. on Wednesday.

The volume of water in the Cauvery was very high and the river was flowing above the danger mark at Betri, Cheriyaparambu, and Kushalnagar.

The cumulative impact of heavy rain in the catchment areas of the Cauvery and the Harangi is that there is a surge in the river flow downstream. Consequently, the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) recorded an inflow at the rate of 36,674 cusecs at 8 a.m. on Wednesday. The rate of inflow is expected to be high during the next few days as a fallout of the heavy rain in Kodagu during the last 48 hours.

Cauvery basin reservoirs

Reservoir	Full level	July 17 level	Inflow rate
Harangi	2,859 ft	2,852.56 ft	9,252 cusecs
Hemavati	2,922 ft	2,909.15 ft	25,862 cusecs
KRS	124.8 ft	110.6 ft	36,674 cusecs
Kabini	2,284 ft	2,282.33 ft	33,640 cusecs

Gross capacity of the four dams: **114.57 tmcft**
Gross storage as of July 17, 2024: **83.81 tmcft**

Source: KSNDMC

Reservoir levels

In the meantime, the reservoir level of the KRS was 110.62 ft on Wednesday as against the full reservoir level of 124.8 ft. There is no significant outflow from the reservoir – but for the release at 2,361 cusecs into the canal and for supplying drinking water – as the authorities are impounding water to ensure that the reservoir attains the FRL at the earliest.

Meanwhile, the rate of outflow from the Harangi dam, which exceeded 20,000 cusecs till Tuesday, was reduced to 8,000 cusecs on Wednesday. The reservoir level had reached 2,852.69 ft as against the maximum level of 2,859 ft at 4 p.m. on Wednesday.

Rains in Kerala

The Kabini reservoir in H.D. Kote continued to receive copious inflow consequent to heavy rain in the catchment area of Kapila river in Wayanad and surrounding regions in Kerala. The rate of inflow on Wednesday was at 33,640 cusecs and the rate of outflow from the reservoir was at 50,000 cusecs. The cumulative inflow into the KRS and Kabini reservoirs was in excess of 70,000 cusecs.

Meanwhile, the water level at the Kabini reservoir was hovering at 2,282.33 ft as against the maximum level of 2,284 ft. The authorities are maintaining a buffer of more than 1 ft for safety reasons as the inflow may further increase if there is no break in monsoon in the Wayanad region. Hence, the outflow is higher than the rate of inflow.

Rain slows down relief work at landslip site

Heavy earthmoving machines have been deployed to clear debris from national highway 66 following a landslip, near Shirur in Ankola taluk of Uttara Kannada district. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

A day after landslips caused seven deaths, continued rain on Wednesday slowed down the relief work at a landslip site near Shirur in Ankola taluk of Uttara Kannada district. A few other roads in the district continue to be disconnected because of landslips and a holiday has been declared for schools and colleges in most of the taluks of the district on Thursday.

Uttara Kannada district in-charge Minister Mankal S. Vaidya is supervising the relief operation being carried out by various teams, including two teams of the NDRF. The continued rain has caused apprehensions about further landslips in the area.

Review meeting

Earlier, holding an emergency review meeting in Karwar on Wednesday, Mr. Vaidya, Minister for Fisheries, Ports and Inland Water Transport, directed the police and Forest Department officials to file cases against the construction company IRB, which is carrying out road-widening work and officials of the National Highways Authority of India in connection with the loss of lives owing to the landslip near Shirur.

The Minister said that unscientific road-widening work was the reason for the landslip and directed officials to file cases. IRP representatives who were present at the meeting failed to give a clear answer on when they planned to complete the work.

The LPG tanker that was pushed into Gangavali river adjacent to the national highway 66 has been stabilised and experts have taken precautionary measures to prevent any further damage.

Mr. Vaidya visited the rain-affected places and handed out cheques for ₹5 lakh each to the families of three deceased persons. Contrary to earlier reports of six bodies being recovered, authorities have confirmed the recovery of only four bodies so far but fear several others might be buried. Heavy earthmoving machines are trying to clear the debris from the national highway but continued rain has hampered the work.

As of Wednesday, 1,005 people were sheltered at 14 rehabilitation centres in the district. In view of continued rain, the Deputy Commissioner has announced a holiday for schools and PU colleges on Thursday in all taluks of Uttara Kannada district barring Mundagod and Haliyal taluks.

Academics decry panel's nod to form new farm university in Mandya

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

The controversy over the formation of a new agricultural university in Mandya by dividing the University of Agricultural Sciences-Bangalore (UAS-B) has refused to die down despite the experts' committee that examined the feasibility giving its nod for the formation of the new university.

Two former Vice-Chancellors have come out in the open against the recommendations of the committee and observed that they will not help farmers.

Staff shortage

Former Vice-Chancellor of the UAS-B K. Narayana Gowda, who is also vice-president of the Forum of the Former Vice-Chancellors of Karnataka, questioned the rationale of setting up one more agricultural university at a time when the existing six agriculture and allied universities are facing a shortage of over 55% teaching staff members and 70% non-teaching staff members.

He told *The Hindu* that the committee's recommendation of turning the existing agricultural and horticultural universities into integrated ones by including both agriculture and horticulture was inadequate.

"How can the experts' committee leave out animal husbandry from this? In fact, animal husbandry occupations such as dairying are the mainstay for small and marginal farmers," argued Dr. Gowda.

The row over dividing the University of Agricultural Sciences in Bengaluru has refused to die down.

The State government had constituted a six-member experts' committee to study the feasibility of carving out a new agricultural university following concerns that both the existing and new university would become too small for cost-effective operation. However, the committee has favoured the formation of a new university on the grounds that the Mysuru Revenue Division, which comprises Mandya, is the only division in the State that lacks an agricultural university and that the number of students seeking agricultural courses is increasing every year.

Two former Vice-Chancellors have observed that the expert committee's recommendations will not help farmers

The committee had also recommended that the proposed university in Mandya, UAS-B, UAS-Dharwad, UAS-Raichur, and the University of Horticultural Sciences-Bagalkot should be turned into integrated agricultural and horticultural universities.

Meanwhile, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Horticultural Sciences-Bagalkot, S.B. Dandin has opposed the recommendation of the committee on technical grounds by pointing out that the committee had exceeded its brief by going to the extent of recommending that other universities should become integrated ones.

'No consultation'

He has also taken exception to the committee suggesting reallocation of research institutes belonging to different universities without either having their representatives on the panel or consulting them. He has particularly taken exception to the committee making recommendations related to horticultural university without having any member from the horticultural sector.

In a statement, Dr. Dandin has expressed fear that the recommendations of the experts' committee would be detrimental to the horticultural sector and demanded that the committee come up with a fresh report by discussing with representatives of the UAS-B, University of Horticultural Sciences-Bagalkot, and University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences-Shivamogga.

C-CAMP signs MoU with Swaminathan foundation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP) has signed a memorandum of understanding with the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation to promote deep science innovation and entrepreneurship in the food and agricultural sectors.

According to C-CAMP, which is a Union government supported initiative fostering high-end research and innovation, the collaboration with the foundation would promote deep science innovation and entrepreneurship that will break new ground in India's food, agriculture and allied sectors.

C-CAMP said that one of the highlights of the joint programme, named Rural Agriculture INnovation (RAIN), will be to deploy innovative agri-tech products developed by C-CAMP start-ups with local farmer groups, encouraging technology adoption for sustainable agriculture and livelihoods, increased biodiversity and agroforestry. The announcement was made in presence of C-CAMP Director-CEO Taslimarif Saiyed and Soumya Swaminathan, chairperson, MS Swaminathan Research Foundation.

Soumya Swaminathan, chairperson, MS Swaminathan Research Foundation.

"In an extremely fruitful discussion at the the MoU signing ceremony, experts laid out immediate action points such as exchange of technical and field support for technology validation, joint call for innovations against mutually vetted problem statements in food, agriculture, pisciculture, animal husbandry, and allied MS Swaminathan Research Foundation is also joining CCAMP CoE for Agri Innovation as a knowledge partner," C-CAMP said.

The initiative will promote deep science innovation and entrepreneurship in the food and agricultural sectors

"Delighted to sign an MoU with @CCAMP_India - a real star in the innovation ecosystem. We will jointly work on a Rural Agri innovation program focusing on solving problems of small & marginal farmers through a science based approach," Dr. Swaminathan posted on X.

Dept. serves notices to 112 unregistered homestays in Chikkamagaluru district

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

The mushrooming of illegal homestays in popular tourism destinations has been an issue in Karnataka for years now, especially in places such as Chikkamagaluru, Kodagu, and Sakleshpur in Hassan district.

Working with the district administration of Chikkamagaluru, the Tourism Department has now identified 112 illegal homestays in various taluks of the district. With this year's monsoon being better than the previous year's, Chikkamagaluru has been attracting a lot of tourists since June. Many homestays in the district advertise themselves on social media with scenic views and proximity to the hills as their unique selling point.

Tourists at Sirimane Falls near Sringeri in Chikkamagaluru district. NAGESH PRABHU

Replying to a question in the Legislative Assembly regarding illegal homestays, H.K. Patil, Minister for Tourism, said district officials were asked to conduct a survey of all the homestays in Chikkamagaluru district and submit a report in April. According to a recent survey, the Minister said there were 607 registered homestays in the district, while 112 illegal establishments were identified.

While 61 such unregistered homestays have been identified in Chikkamagaluru taluk, 29 of them have been identified in Mudigere taluk, eight of them in Kalasa taluk, seven in Tarikere taluk, four in Koppa taluk, and three unregistered homestays have been identified in Sringeri taluk.

Mr. Patil said unregistered homestays have now been served notices to get registered under the Tourism Department as per guidelines. The department has also warned the owners of unregistered homestays that legal action would be taken if they failed to register themselves, he said.

> There are at least 500 unregistered homestays in Chikkamagaluru district. In some places, they are taking in tourists in every house. It is easy to identify unregistered establishments in town limits, but in estates, where there are single houses, no one knows who comes and goes.
>
> **N.R. THEJASWI,** president of the Chikkamagaluru Homestay Association

However, the locals in Chikkamagaluru said that this number was a gross underestimate. "There are at least 500 unregistered homestays in Chikkamagaluru district. In some places, they are taking in tourists in every house. It is easy to identify unregistered establishments in town limits, but in estates where there are single houses, no one knows who comes and goes," said N.R. Thejaswi, president of the Chikkamagaluru Homestay Association.

He said multiple complaints to the district administration, Tourism Department, and the police have gone in vain so far with little to no action. "Only recently, they closed a couple of homestays near Bababudan Giri," Mr. Thejaswi said.

Registered homestay owners also fear that in case of any untoward incidents in unregistered establishments, the whole sector will be blamed.

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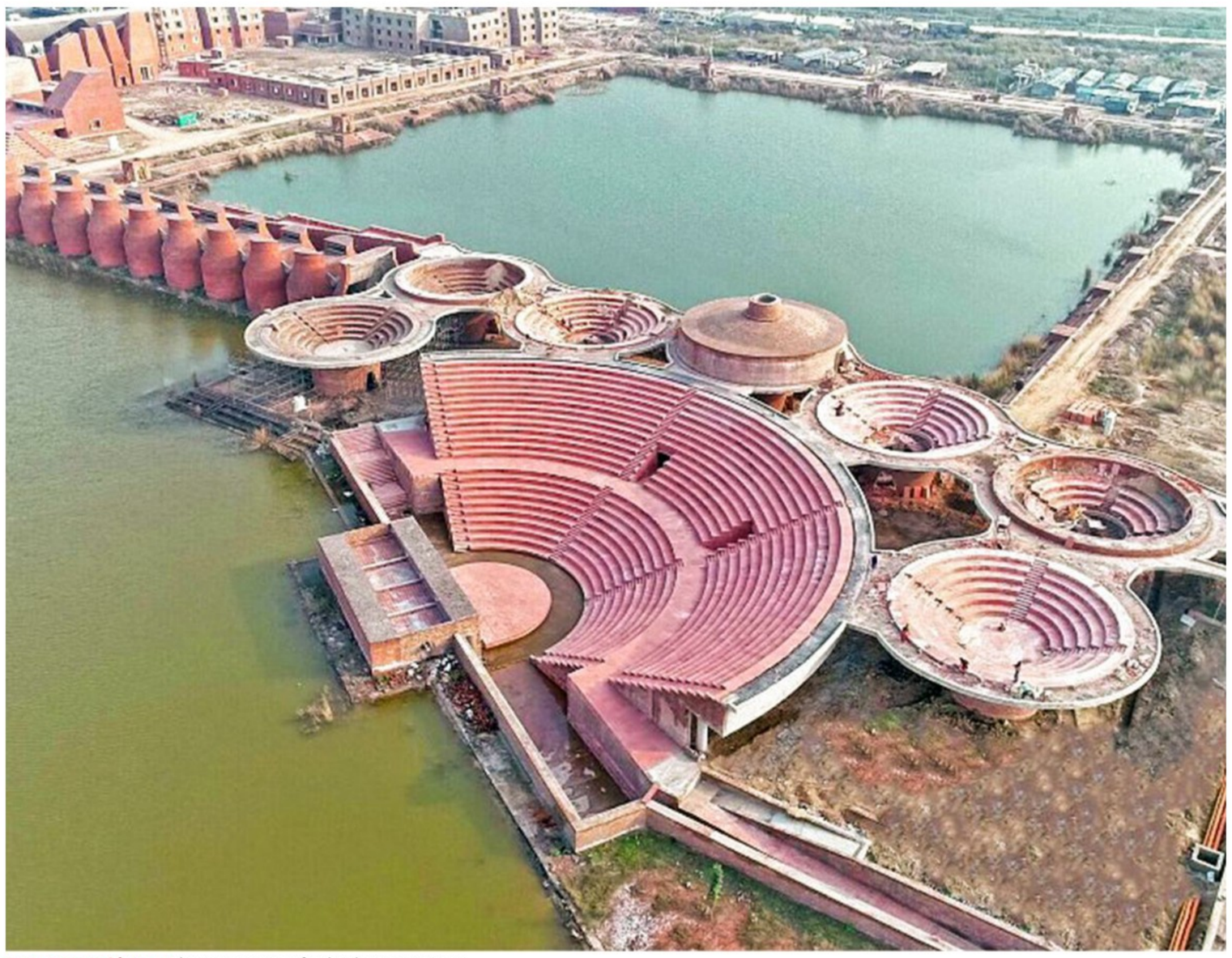

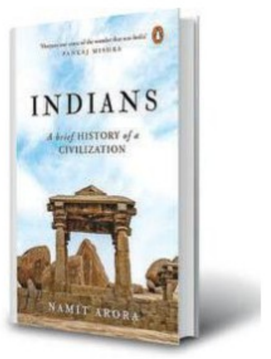

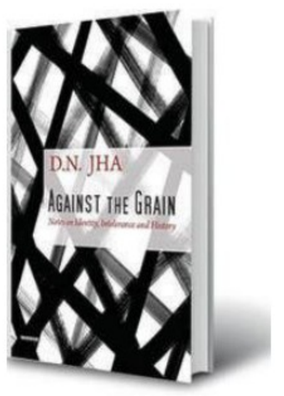

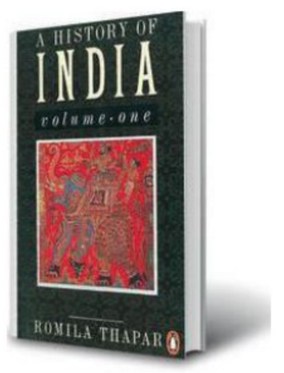

Testament to history: The new campus of Nalanda University. ANI

Of a gilded past and the future: Nalanda's lost glory and new-found ambitions

Writers with the help of Chinese pilgrim Hiuen Tsang's account and other research have traced the rise and fall of an ancient seat of learning going back to the Gupta dynasty. Nalanda, a revered Buddhist site, which had been destroyed, was rediscovered in the 19th century

Ziya Us Salam

"Nalanda is not just a name, it is an identity. Nalanda is the root, it is the mantra. Nalanda is the proclamation of the truth that knowledge cannot be destroyed even though books burn in a fire." Prime Minister Narendra Modi's words at the inauguration of the new Nalanda University campus at Rajgir recently and his "golden age" references made us go back to the history books.

Established by emperor Kumaragupta-I of the Gupta dynasty around 427 AD, Nalanda, a centre for learning, carved out its own niche with the support of the Pala kings, and later the monks of Nalanda, who were patronised by the Pithipatis of Bodh Gaya. Nalanda was way ahead of its times, a sacred spot for the spiritually inclined.

Aryabhata on the rolls

At one time, Nalanda's faculty included some of the most highly regarded names in Hinayana as well as Mahayana Buddhism; the latter sect started much after Hinayana but flourished for long, touching with its spirit Tibet, China, Japan and much of southeast Asia. The names of those associated with Nalanda read like a roll call of brilliance, even genius. Included in the list were Aryabhata, Harsha, Dharmapala, Nagarjuna, Dharmakirti, Asanga, Vasubandhu, Chandrakirti and Silabhadra. Hiuen Tsang, of course, spent five years here during the reign of Harshavardhan in the 7th century, and wrote in detail about Nalanda's meticulous approach in enrolling students, including rigorous admission tests.

Its glory got an affirmative nod in the *History of Bangladesh: Early Bengal in Regional Perspectives*, edited by Abdul Momin Chowdhury and Ranabir Chakravarti with a foreword by Romila Thapar. They write: "It is well known Nalanda gained the celebrated status of a Buddhist site after Alexander Cunningham identified it with Bargon, based on the travel notes of Xuan Zang (Hiuen Tsang) followed by epigraphic records recovered from the site. This Chinese pilgrim left a detailed account of the monastic organisation." Prof. Thapar herself wrote of its global repute in *A History of India*, widely regarded as a must-read for students of ancient and early medieval India, "It is on record that a king of Sumatra requested a Pala king's permission to endow a monastery at Nalanda. The ties between the Buddhists in eastern India and southeast Asia were strengthened at this time."

Khalji raids, and a denial

Yet Nalanda has not been without its share of controversies. Several historians have recorded that Nalanda was ransacked by Bakhtiyar Khalji around 1200 AD and its treasure of books reduced to ashes. In *History of Medieval India*, Satish Chandra writes: "A Khalji officer, Bakhtiyar Khalji, whose uncle had fought the battle of Tarain, had been appointed in charge of some of the areas beyond Banaras. He had taken advantage of this to make frequent raids into Bihar....During these raids, he had attacked and destroyed some of the famous Buddhist monasteries of Bihar, Nalanda and Vikramshila, which had no protector left."

Noted historian Mohammad Habib, while not referring to Nalanda's possible destruction directly, wrote in *Studies in Medieval Indian Polity and Culture: The Delhi Sultanate and Its Times*, about Bakhtiyar's raids in Bihar. Elucidating about the fall of Indian kingdoms one after the other to the Ghurid army, Habib wrote, "Bakhtiyar, an adventurer from Khilj, who had been twice declared unfit for enrolment in the army as a common soldier, harassed and conquered Bihar and about one-half of Bengal."

Such assertions were probably based on the writings of Minhaj-i-Siraj who wrote in Tabaqat-i-Nasiri, "He (Bakhtiyar Khalji) used to carry his depradations into those parts and that country until he organised an attack upon the fortified city of Bihar....He advanced to the gateway of the fortress of Bihar with two hundred horsemen in defensive armour, and suddenly attacked the place."

Rediscovering Nalanda

Illustrious historian D.N. Jha, however, contested such claims. He argued in *Against the Grain: Notes on Identity, Intolerance and History*, one of his last works, "The fortified monastery which Bakhtiyar captured was known as Audand-Bihar or Odandapura-vihara." It was not Nalanda, claimed Jha. He felt that Minhaj did not refer to Nalanda at all in his writings.

Minhaj spoke instead of the ransacking of the fort of Bihar or Hisar-i-Bihar, he argued. "Bakhtiyar did not go to Nalanda. It escaped the main fury of the Muslim conquest because it lay not on the main route from Delhi to Bengal but needed a separate expedition." Bakhtiyar instead probably proceeded from Biharsharif to Nadia in Bengal.

Fellow historian Namit Arora reasoned in *Indians: A Brief History of Civilization*, "By the time of the Turko-Persian invasions, most Buddhist sites had already been abandoned, destroyed, or converted into Brahminical sites across much of India. Buddhist artifacts and texts were wiped out and Buddhism vanished from India's public memory.... Only in the 19th century did Indians rediscover Nalanda."

With the opening of the Rajgir campus, scholars hope Nalanda will regain its glory.

For the discerning, Nalanda continues to be an open book. You read, you interpret, you conclude. As Oscar Wilde said: The word is nothing; interpretation is everything.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The 33rd Olympic Games will begin on July 26, in the French capital city of Paris. Here is quiz on a history of 'firsts' of the Olympic Games

Soorya Prakash. N

QUESTION 1
Which was the first Olympic Games to be held in a non-leap year?

QUESTION 2
Which country became the first Asian nation to participate in the Olympic Games?

QUESTION 3
In which Games were the Olympic oath and flag introduced for the first time?

QUESTION 4
In which Games were the Olympic motto of 'Citius, Altius, Fortuis' used for the first time?

QUESTION 5
In which games was an Olympic village first built, and the victory podium first used for the Summer Olympics?

QUESTION 6
Which were the first Games to be televised and where the torch relay was first introduced?

QUESTION 7
Where were the first Olympic Games outside Europe and North America held?

QUESTION 8
When and where were the first Olympic Games held in Asia?

QUESTION 9
In which Games, was an official mascot first introduced? What was its name?

Visual question:
Identify the country from its flag as it became the first country to gain independence while the Games were being held. This resulted in different names being used for the country at the opening and closing ceremonies.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The name Madhya Pradesh was called before 1959. **Ans: Madhya Bharat**
2. This city which lies on the eastern bank of the Hooghly River was renamed. **Ans: Kolkata (Calcutta)**
3. This city in Uttar Pradesh was renamed in 2018. **Ans: From Allahabad to Prayagraj**
4. This State's Legislative Assembly on June 24, 2024, passed a resolution proposing to change the name of the State. **Ans: From Kerala to Keralam**
5. The princely states which were merged into Uttar Pradesh in 1950 were called this name before. **Ans: United Provinces**
Visual: This image is of a celebration in one of the States in India. In 1973, the State's name was changed to what it is called today. **Ans: Karnataka. It was earlier known as Mysore**
Early Birds: C. Saravanan| Jharna Kamdar| Siddhartha Viswanathan| Janki Nair| Arvind Tillway

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subramanian

"Pronunciation of 'apparatus' (S. Mallika, Bangalore)"

" The first 'a' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'man.' The second 'a' and 'u' are pronounced like the 'a' in 'India.' The third 'a' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'rate', 'fate.' The stress is on the third syllable. In American English, the third 'a' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'man.' Please note 'apparatus' is not a countable noun."

"Exceptionable, exceptional (S. R. Ray, Calcutta)"

" 'Exceptionable' means 'objectionable.'

His speech was most exceptionable.

'Exceptionable' is a formal word and is rarely used nowadays. 'Exceptional' means 'very unusual, outstanding.'

She has exceptional talents.

This coffee is exceptionally good.

In American English, 'exceptional' is also used to refer to physically handicapped children.

There should be special schools for exceptional children.

It is the context which will tell us in what sense 'exceptional' is used. In British English, 'exceptional' is used only in the sense of 'very unusual, outstanding.'"

"To come upon something (K. S. Patil, Bombay)"

"'To come upon somebody or something' means 'to meet or find somebody or something by chance.'

I came upon him when I was returning from the station.

This is a formal expression. 'Come across' is more common than 'come upon.'"

"Difference between 'ceremony' and 'function' (K. Raja Ram, Varanasi)."

"A ceremony is a 'special action or set of actions done, especially by a priest, official, etc. at a particular time, in a particular place, for a particular purpose, usually formal and often religious.'

I watched the opening ceremony of the Olympics on T.V.

Japan is well-known for its tea-ceremony.

There are certain prescribed rules which have to be followed in a certain order during a ceremony. The word 'ceremony' also carries with it a sense of tradition. The special acts that we perform during a ceremony have been handed down from, one generation to another. The word is derived from the Latin 'caerimonia' meaning 'religious worship.' A ceremony is a solemn affair. A flag-hoisting ceremony, a funeral ceremony. A 'function' is '(a) a public ceremony or occasion, (b) a social gathering, especially a large formal or important one.' A Minister has to attend several functions every day.

The film has been declared a hit, so the producer is inviting all the stars to a grand function.

The inaugural function was boring.

A function can either be formal or informal. It is not always a solemn affair.

I*t was a pleasant function.*

You don't say 'It was a pleasant ceremony.' Ceremonies may be impressive or unimpressive."

Published in The Hindu on September 22, 1992.

Word of the day

limpid:
clear and bright; transmitting light; able to be seen through with clarity; transparently clear; easily understandable

Synonyms: transparent, lucid, crystal clear

Usage: *She writes in a limpid style.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/limpidpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈlɪmpɪd/

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Karody Gundu Rao: A visionary who brought Kannada theatre from Udupi to Hyderabad

His theatre journey in Hyderabad started under the banner Kannada Natya Ranga, which he founded in 1968 and ran until his death in 2010. Many trained by him continue his legacy

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

It was financial difficulties that compelled Karody Gundu Rao to relocate to Hyderabad from Udupi in coastal Karnataka in 1950. But his first love – Kannada theatre – stayed with him. In the place he relocated to, he not only rebuilt his livelihood, but also a new world of Kannada theatre.

A recently released biography of the theatre maker by his son Karody Niranjan Rao, *Full Many a Gem,* chronicles this unusual journey. It looks back at how Gundu Rao came to be known for building an audience who participated in and admired Kannada theatre in Hyderabad. Gundu Rao managed to draw an audience of 800-1000 for his plays in Hyderabad.

Gundu Rao's theatre journey in Hyderabad started under the banner Kannada Natya Ranga, which he founded in 1968 and he ran until he died in 2010, says Niranjan Rao. His book brings alive days and moments in the 50-plus glorious years of his theatre journey.

An early start

Starting his theatre journey at the age of 12, Gundu Rao was the grandson of popular Udupi-based theatre and Yakshagana artiste Karody Subba Rao.

Gundu Rao wrote his first play in 1934, a children's play titled *Draupadi Swayamvara*. He organised the play by roping in all his cousins and playmates. He wrote another children's play, *Muppina Maduve,* in early 1935. As a child artiste, he acted in a social play titled *Seva Sadan*, presented by the neighboring village's graduates.

Gundu Rao grew up in an atmosphere imbued with music and theatre. He listened to the soulful natyasangeet of Bal Gandharva, Baburao Pendharker and other well-known luminaries of the Marathi stage. His son says he had a good singing voice and had learnt Hindustani music as well as instruments such as tabla from his grand-uncle, Karody Madhava Rao, who stayed at Kuthupady, Udupi, for many years and learnt the harmonium from his father, Karody Narasinga Rao.

Financial issues

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Niranjan Rao said of the circumstances under which the family moved to Hyderabad and what happened there, "We were a family of six, but when we moved to Hyderabad, it was just my parents, my brother and I. Our father decided to move to Hyderabad due to financial issues. Though we had some agricultural land, it did not yield much. He wanted a new start, and when we were contemplating moving to Bombay (now Mumbai) or elsewhere, he decided to move to Hyderabad. He took up many different jobs there, but parallelly did theatre, introduced Kannada theatre to Hyderabad and eventually started his own troupe."

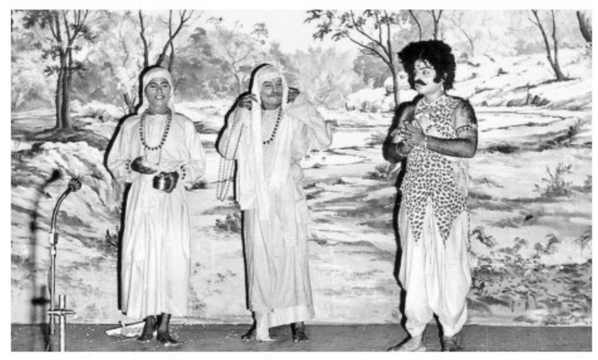
Gundu Rao assumed a different role in Hyderabad, initially becoming a teacher. His wife also pursued teaching after completing her post-graduation. However, the death of his father in 1968 temporarily halted these activities.

But Gundu Rao picked it up again soon, starting an amateur trope. Until then, serious theatre, apart from the occasional one-act Kannada play, was virtually nonexistent in Hyderabad.

Birth of troupe

It was a chance remark from an acquaintance that inspired Gundu Rao to embark on an ambitious theatre journey, producing full-length plays complete with songs, verses, and technical details. Although he initially faced challenges in assembling his cast, including female artists, he successfully launched Kannada Natya Ranga on July 27, 1968, at Ravindra Bharati, with Telugu cinema icon Akkineni Nageswara Rao inaugurating the event before a large audience.

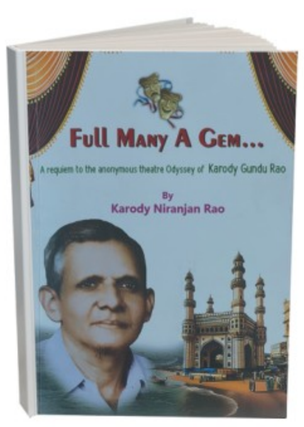
A still from the play 'Mysura Malli', directed by Karody Gundu Rao in 1975. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



A scene from the play 'Hoyasala Veera Ereyanga' directed by Karody Gundu Rao in 1977. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Initially, it was hard for Gundu Rao to find Kannada-speaking actors or Telugu-speaking actors who could also speak Kannada. "For his first Kannada play in Hyderabad, my father had asked his friend G.N. Rao to recruit actors, but he could not find even a single one. He ascribed this to the language barrier. This was the situation in 1968. Hyderabad then had upwards of nearly a lakh Kannadigas. Most of them belonged to the erstwhile Hyderabad Karnataka area. Their Kannada was a mixture of Kannada, Telugu and the Deccani Urdu."

Most schools offered Hindi and Telugu as additional languages to be learnt under the three-language formula. It became clear that getting Kannada-speaking actors was going to be an uphill task. "Father began to tap his vast circle of friends for potential talent. Back then many Kannadigas were serving in the branch offices of banks that originated in Karnataka. Having been educated in Karnataka, many of them could read, write and speak Kannada with ease. But would they have the commitment and dedication to undertake lengthy rehearsals and stage a play was the question. Soon, he found a 25-year-old banker who fitted the bill, and that is when he directed his first play in 1968 titled *Bahdur Ganda,* written by Parvatavani," narrates Niranjan Rao.



A still from the play 'Vichitra Samaja' directed by Karody Gundu Rao in 1970. (Left) The cover of his biography. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

No looking back

Gundu Rao went on to direct and compose music for a total of 41 plays, such as *Roopa Chakra, Akshayambara, Mamatheya Mane, Gampara Gumpu, Kurudu Kanchana, Devyani, Tippu Sultan, Kittoora Huli*, and *Sanmaana Sukha,* which was his last play in 2010.

Niranjan Rao says there was never a problem getting an audience for his father's Kannada plays despite performing them in a state that did not speak the language. "Hyderabad has at least 3-4 lakh Kannadigas. Though not everyone is involved in social events like dramas, we managed to attract people. The tickets when we started were priced at not more than a rupee or two. Surprisingly, most of our dramas had an audience count of 800-1,000 people easily. The majority of our plays happened at Ravindra Bharathi, which is equivalent to Ravindra Kalakshetra in Bengaluru, and we managed to have houseful shows in such a huge space."

"On the day of the first show, around 9 p.m., we were ready and nervous, wishing we could dream away the next few hours. The theatre had started filling up, heightening our tension. By 9.15 p.m., it was jampacked. There was not a single vacant seat, either in the hall or in the gallery. Quite a few were standing at the gate and in the aisles. Almost every other show was like this whenever we performed. So, pulling an audience for a Kannada play in Hyderabad was never an issue," he says.

Gundu Rao went on to direct numerous plays with a strong command of production elements. He was involved in makeup, lighting, and music as well.

A rich legacy

Sharing his experience working with the late theatre maker, Ramachander Rao V., who acted in Gundu Rao's plays, says he was a very dedicated director. "He was my school teacher, and later on, his son was my boss. When Niranjan told me that his father was directing a play and was looking for Kannada-speaking actors, I told him I was interested."

His forefathers were from Karnataka, but he was raised in Hyderabad. "Though I knew Kannada, Telugu was a language I was fluent in, and it had become my mother tongue as I was raised here. I did not know how to read Kannada, so I would ask someone to read the script for me, and I would write it down in Telugu or English for the rehearsals," recalls the 68-year-old.

Another actor, Devasena Atheya, says Gundu Rao was a father figure to her. "My journey with Gundu Rao sir, my guru, started when I was just 16 or 17. I was invited to dance in his play, and eventually, they asked me to act also. I was afraid that my parents would object, but later, my mother agreed to let me act ... Be it taking care of us or teaching, everything reminded me of my father. He was a father figure to me."

Being a native Telugu speaker, she only knew a bit of the language because her neighbours were Kannadigas. So she, too, would write her dialogues in Telugu and learn them by rote. "Later, Gundu Rao sir would patiently teach me intonations," she adds.

Over time, Gundu Rao trained more than 200 actors, including many like Devasena, who did not speak Kannada. His son Niranjan Karody and daughter-in-law Sumathi Niranjan continue his legacy in Hyderabad.

Workshop on reforms in accreditation organised

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A southern regional consultative workshop on binary accreditation was organised by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) earlier this week.

The objective was to gather nationwide feedback from the universities and colleges on the "binary accreditation" manual before its official launch in the coming months.

Rather than the earlier system of grades, the new binary accreditation system encourages all institutions to get "onboard" in the accreditation process, thereby creating a quality culture in the higher education system.

Speaking after inaugurating the workshop, former Chairperson of the National Council for Vocational Education and Training, Government of India, Dr. Nirmaljeet Singh Kalsi, highlighted the need for including skill development as part of the accreditation framework.

He also enlightened the participants on the National Curriculum Framework and its relevance to skill development.

Real-time agri-intelligence platform launched

Sage has been designed by combining technologies such as Generative Artificial Intelligence, multi-layered global climate data, a global crop knowledge graph, earth observation data and advanced crop models

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru-headquartered Cropin Technology, an AI Platform for food and agriculture, has announced the launch of Sage, which the company claims is the world's first real-time agri-intelligence solution powered by Google Gemini.

Cropin Sage converts the world's agricultural landscape into a proprietary grid-based map with options of 3x3 metres, 10x10 metres, or 5x5 kilometres, delivering data and intelligence.

Informed decisions

According to the company, this enables CPG players, seed manufacturers, food processors, multilateral organisations, financial institutions and governments to make informed decisions based on historical, present, and future data on cultivation practices, crop, irrigation, climate, and soil. Sage enables the Cropin Cloud platform to help agri-food businesses future-proof their production and supply chains, says the company.

On top of analysing data on agriculture, crops, and weather patterns, Sage helps to forecast yields with the help of AI tools.

Sage has been designed by combining technologies such as Generative AI, multi-layered global climate data, a global crop knowledge graph, earth observation data and advanced crop models.

On top of analysing historical data on agriculture, crops, and weather patterns, Sage also helps to forecast future yields with the help of AI tools. This translates to pinpointing the ideal locations and favourable conditions for growing crops on a global map, helping to build a robust and resilient food system, according to a release from the company.

It would provide intelligence on 13 key crops, including wheat, rice, potato, and maize, which collectively cover almost 80% of the world's food demand. Cropin plans to build and deploy Sage globally in a phased approach, aligned with enterprise customer requirements and demand.

Global Agri-food Map

Agriculture and food systems often lack robust digital infrastructure. Traditionally, players haven't had access to the kind of agri-intelligence needed to make informed decisions.

To address the lack of visibility into the global agricultural landscape, Sage is introducing a dynamic on-demand global food and agriculture cultivation map for regions and crops of interest. Sage also allows decision-makers to ask critical questions about crop performance and lifecycle in their native language.

"By 'gridifying' land parcels with proprietary algorithms and integrating layered insights, Sage forecasts crop futures using historical data and the impacts of changing climate and weather on an unprecedented scale. This empowers informed decision-making, securing both business interests and the global food supply chain. Sage is a testament to Cropin's dedication to transforming food systems with AI solutions," said Krishna Kumar, founder and CEO of Cropin.

Krishna Kumar, founder & CEO, Cropin

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 18, 1974

Only 75 Seats Each in Medical Colleges

Bangalore, July 17: Medical Colleges in Karnataka will have a tough time this year because they have been asked to restrict admissions to the MBBS course to a maximum of 75 in each institution. They have been addressed in a communication to this effect by the Health Minister.

The communication has been addressed in advance of the admissions, keeping in mind the unpleasant experience the Government had with the Medical Council of India, which recommended the derecognition of six medical colleges on the ground that the admissions had allegedly far exceeded the permissible limit.

The Health Minister is stated to have made it plain that if there is any violation, he will not hesitate to write to the Centre recommending the derecognition of the Colleges concerned.

State to Import 1,000 Tractors This Year

Bangalore, July 17: The Karnataka Government would import 1,000 tractors this year for being supplied to the ryots, Mr. N. Chikke Gowda, Agriculture Minister, said here to-day.

Inaugurating the animal health division and declaring open the new premises of the Aero Spares Division of the Karnataka State Agro Industries Corporation Limited, he said the Centre had given permission to import 2,000 tractors.

The Minister referred to the short supply of agro-spares, which were in great demand and wished that the corporate bodies tried to sell the machinery at reasonable prices.

CITYBEATS

From Down Under

ONGOING
Walking Through A Songline is a digital exhibition of Australian indigenous art. The venue brings to life stories from ancient, sacred Aboriginal traditions. The exhibition is produced by the National Museum of Australia and Australia's Mosster Studio.
At the Science Gallery, Bengaluru from July 18 to August 18. Entry free.

Touch of Tehran

JULY 20
Watch the award-winning documentary *Seven Winters in Tehran*, directed by Steffi Niederzoll. The film is a part of the German Cinema in Focus series, curated by Shivani for Max Mueller Bhavan and is the last film in the sub-category Female Auteurs. *Seven Winters in Tehran* is open to those aged 15 years and above.
At Max Mueller Bhavan, 4.30pm. Entry is free.

Authors' notes

JULY 21
Attend a session – Sunday Morning with Authors – with Shinie Antony, Shabbeer Ahmed, Gajra Kottary, Zac O'Yeah and Anjum Hasan, which will be moderated by Shantanu Ray Chaudhuri. The authors will talk about the art and craft of writing various genres.
At Atta Galatta, Indiranagar 1st Stage, 11am. Call 9632510126 for details.

A novel way to popularise abhangs

Pt Jitendra Abhisheki is currently touring India with his 'Abhangwari', an annual [illegible]

Narendra Kusnur

The atmosphere was electric, as the incessant rain did not deter fans from packing Mumbai's massive Shanmukhananda Hall on the evening of July 13. The Abhangwari concert, conceptualised and presented by singer Mahesh Kale, had the entire crowd in a daze, basking in the melody of Marathi *abhangs* like 'Kaanada Raja Pandharicha', 'Avghe Garje Pandharpur' and 'Sakha Panduranga'.

Now settled in the San Francisco Bay area, Punebred Mahesh started the Abhangwari series eight years ago. The idea was to present the *abhang* genre, dedicated to Lord Vitthal, and musically depict the annual visit of thousands of pilgrims to Pandharpur in Maharashtra, on Ashadhi Ekadashi day.

He says, "Besides the songs, I wanted to create an experience for the audience. Thus, *teeka* is applied on the foreheads of those entering the hall, and *topis* given to them. We also show visuals of scenes that take place on the way to Pandharpur."

Music maker Mahesh Kale runs the Indian Classical Music & Arts Foundation in San Francisco Bay area. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mahesh points out that though the basic theme remains the same, he has a new script written every year. This year, Prajakt Deshmukh worked on the script and Subodh Bhave was the narrator at the Mumbai show. Mahesh's effort is to popularise *abhangs* outside Maharashtra, and this year's schedule thus includes Hyderabad on July 19, Chennai on July 20 and Bengaluru on July 21. For this tour, he has written a special song called 'Abhangwari', which will be used as a title track.

Now 48, Mahesh started learning music from his mother Meenal Kale, and gave his first performance of a devotional song at age three. He later learnt from Purshottam Gangurde, before being chosen as a disciple by the renowned Pt Jitendra Abhisheki.

Singer Mahesh Kale was chosen as a disciple by the renowned Pandit Jitendra Abhisheki

His focus now is on *abhangs*, and spreading the reach of classical music in the Bay area, where he and his wife Purva Gujar-Kale run the non-profit organisation Indian Classical Music & Arts Foundation. "This is my way of trying to preserve tradition," says Mahesh, who won a National Award for his song 'Aruni kirani' in the 2015 Marathi film *Katiyar Kaljat Ghusli*.

Before this tour, Mahesh had performed at the Stanford Jazz Festival along with saxophonist George Brooks, *kanjira* exponent V. Selvaganesh, bassist Kai Eckhardt, pianist Frank Martin and drummer Scott Amendola. He also had a devotional music recital at the Bruhan Maharashtra Mandal at San Jose.

"The jazz show was called Indian Jazz Journey, and George and I present it every year with a different line-up. He is familiar with Indian music. He has some jazz pieces and I have some Indian classical pieces. We try to have a musical conversation."

The vocalist says these days, things have changed with social media and unlimited television programming. "During my growing up years, I used to hear the musical greats on radio. When I first met Pt Jitendra Abhisheki, I was totally in awe. I remained like that even while I was training under him. When I entered his gurukul, music became a way of life for me."

After Pt. Jitendra Abhisheki passed away in 1998, his son Shounak became Mahesh's mentor. "I travelled extensively with him, and in the process honed my performance skills."

Talking about getting the National Award, Mahesh says it was not only the first time he sang in a film but it also marked the revival of Natya Sangeet. "It was an amazing experience because most of the songs in the film were my guru's (Pt. Jitendra Abhisheki) compositions. There were some originals also, including the one for which I got the award."

The singer also spends a good amount of time composing new tunes, especially sant sahitya. At the Mumbai concert, Mahesh sang an Urdu verse on Vitthal. "The audience response shows how they enjoy when you push the boundaries and come up with novel ways to engage with the art," says Mahesh.

Bengal's best Chefs Avinandan Kundu and Koyel Roy Nandy. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Kolkata calling

Anagha Maareesha

The chefs behind Kolkata's Sienna Store and Cafe describe their cuisine as "Bengal-forward." Located in Hindustan Park neighbourhood, the cafe is deeply rooted in the state's heritage. Chefs Avinandan Kundu and Koyel Roy Nandy 'baajar-to-table' style weekly menus shine the spotlight on fresh ingredients from local markets. The restaurant comes to The Courtyard, Bengaluru for a food and ceramic pop-up, with a menu that promises to tell the story of Bengal.

Sienna traces its origins to Shanti Niketan more than 20 years ago, where it began as a factory making ceramics. Eight years ago it opened in its present location as a cafe to support the store that was selling textiles and ceramics. The focus slowly shifted to the food as well, over the lockdown years. "I don't know of any other restaurants in the world that have the ability to do their own ceramics, crockery, napkins– everything in house," Avinandan says. "We are a serious food operation too now. We have made an effort to focus on the region when it comes to the cuisine."

This is the second time the cafe is in Bengaluru for a pop-up. Happy with the feedback they received, they are back for round two. Instead of a set menu, they are offering a la carte options.

The menu features Bengali ingredients but in modern avatars. So you may spot ingredients such as potol (pointed gourd) or chola'r dal (chana dal). But, for instance, the chola'r dal is made into a hummus and served with nimki. "We are trying to present all of Bengali culture, not just west, but also east Bengali and Bangladeshi culture. We generally eat more duck and mutton in our homes. So here also we are trying to use more of that," adds Koyel.

They are also trying to hit the nostalgia factor with dishes like maach'r dim (fish egg) XO rice, golda chingri (prawns) and bhekti a la Kiev (a dish where the beloved barramundi fish is given the chicken Kiev treatment). For dessert, they offer aam doi, mango yoghurt and malai toast brulee. "Malai toast is a popular street food found in office areas," Kundu adds.

The event will also feature a pop-up store where guests can pick up ceramics and fabrics, and pottery workshops for beginners and advanced learners. "

Prices start at ₹1,200. At The Courtyard, Shanti Nagar, Bengaluru. July 19 - 21, 6 pm onwards. For more details call, 7338677996

A rare admiral, retired but still serving

Living life to the fullest Nirmala Kannan's many hats now include one of a singer. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mala Kumar

As schoolgirls, the Menon sisters used to run home so they could catch the song requests on Radio Ceylon. They would note down the lyrics eagerly, filling in the blanks when the same song played again, so they could sing along too. The elder of the two, Nirupama, topped the All India Civil Services Examination and went on to become India's foreign secretary from 2009 to '11.

Her younger sister became a surgeon in the Indian Navy. She was the first lady officer from all three wings of the armed forces to get into the National Defence College in Delhi, and was the first lady commanding officer of one of India's largest naval hospitals, INHS Asvini.

One will get to hear that schoolgirl's voice once again when Rear Admiral (retd) Dr Nirmala Kannan, now 71, participates at the Hope and Harmony concert on July 21 in Bengaluru. The concert is organised by The Teacher Foundation to raise funds for the professional development of teachers.

"I've always loved to sing, and I'm really happy that I get to do it for a cause," says Nirmala, adding that she has lent her voice to the Armed Forces Battle Casualties Fund in Coimbatore, the National Defence Fund in Kochi and for children with special needs in Thiruvananthapuram.

Nirmala says it was in Pune that she first went up on a stage to sing at the age of four. Throughout her childhood, college and medical school, and while working in different parts of the country, she continued to sing. This surgeon in obstetrics and gynaecology believes it keeps her young at heart and after retiring from the Indian Navy, Nirmala joined a group of singers.

Following the pandemic, her husband Vice Admiral (retd) B Kannan suggested she start a YouTube channel. His encouragement was not surprising considering it was Nirmala's music that first brought them together so many decades ago. Nirmala was pleasantly surprised by the response she garnered online and decided to seriously pursue this path.

Professional recording required Nirmala to choose the best songs for the medium and finding good quality track music that would suit her timbre. "My videographer makes me sing each song at least three times, and then plays them back so we can select the best take," says the self-taught guitarist.

The joy in Nirmala's voice is what must have caught the attention of an 18-year old rapper who wrote to her and asked if they could sing a song together. "I asked this rapper, Aditi Nair, to finish her studies and then let me know if she was still interested. She promptly did, and we recorded a song over the Parambithara Bridge in Kochi at 6am on a rainy day. Then, as the sun came out, we broke into 'Here comes the Sun'!"

> I keep telling women that there is no need to give up on the things we enjoy. Retirement is not the end of the road.
> **DR NIRMALA KANNAN**
> Retd Rear Admiral

Composed by George Harrison of the Beatles, it is one of Nirmala's favourites among others by Joan Baez, Louis Armstrong, Lynn Anderson, Engelbert Humperdinck, ABBA and Neil Diamond.

"Look at Usha Uthup and her sister Indira Srinivasan! I keep telling women that there is no need to give up on the things we enjoy, and that, retirement is not the end of the road," says Nirmala, who mentored the first batch of non-medical women officers recruited by the Armed Forces in 1992. "You can't give up!" she told them, since the training was strenuous both physically and mentally, and to their credit, not one from that batch did.

Maya Menon, director of The Teacher Foundation for over 20 years, sees a similar struggle and perseverance in the teaching field, and the same need for mentorship. "As per the National Education Policy 2020, every teacher is supposed to go through 50 hours of professional development annually," she says. "Music offers hope and joy. It also offers opportunities to make our schools meaningful spaces of learning."

For the upcoming event, Nirmala has selected songs of hope that will tell students, teachers, parents and others that they are not alone.

The Hope and Harmony concert, also featuring the school choirs of Bethany High and Christel House, is on July 21 from 4.30 to 6.30pm at JN Tata Auditorium, National Science Seminar Complex.

For details tickets and donor passes visit teacherfoundation.org

Four killed as rain continues to lash Kerala

Water level in all major rivers remain high; so far 474 people from 143 families have been shifted to 31 relief camps in the State; NDRF team has been deployed in Thalavady; IMD issues an orange alert for 10 districts from Kottayam to Kasaragod and a yellow alert for four districts for today

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Water world: A waterlogged road at Thalavady in Alappuzha. SURESH ALLEPPEY

Heavy rain accompanied by strong winds lashed many parts of Kerala for the third consecutive day on Wednesday, hitting normal life in northern and central Kerala and high-range areas.

As many as four rain-related deaths were confirmed on the day, although the intensity of the rain subsided. A 30-year-old man, Unais, who sustained serious injuries after a tree fell on him near Mattancherry bridge in Alappuzha municipality died on Wednesday.

Saneesh, 23, a resident of Mankulam in Idukki, drowned after he slipped into a river. In another incident, a 45-year-old fisherman, identified as Aloysius of Arthi, died after his boat capsized in sea at Maryanad in Thiruvananthapuram. The body of Rajesh who went missing at Muthukunni in Palakkad on Tuesday was retrieved on Wednesday.

Scores of trees got uprooted and fell on homes at Kuttiyadi in a whirlwind that lasted a few minutes in the morning.

In Alappuzha, waterlogging continued unabated in low-lying areas, including upper Kuttanad and Kuttanad. Water level in all major rivers in the region, including the Pampa, Achencoil and Manimala, remained high. A 16-member National Disaster Response Force team was deployed in Thalavady in Alappuzha district.

Landslip in Kottayam

A house and a prayer hall were partially damaged following a landslip in Kottayam on Wednesday. As many as 474 people from 143 families have been shifted to 31 relief camps in the State so far.

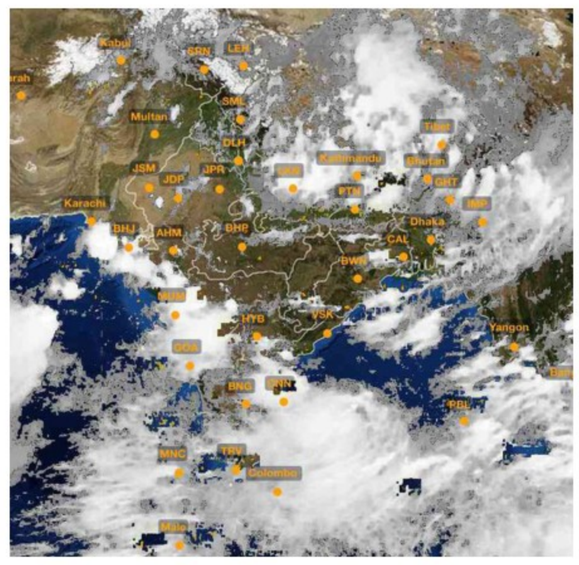
The increased rainfall activity is likely to continue for the next five days. Further, a fresh low pressure area is likely to form over the west central and adjoining northwest Bay of Bengal by Friday.

The India Meteorological Department issued an orange alert for 10 districts from Kottayam to Kasaragod for Thursday, warning of very heavy rain, and a yellow alert for Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, and Alappuzha, forecasting heavy rain. Squally weather with wind speed of 35 kmph to 45 kmph and gusting to 55 kmph is likely to prevail along and off the Kerala coast. Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea.

Ayyankunnu in Kannur recorded the highest rainfall of 14 cm in the past 24 hours ending at 8.30 a.m. on Wednesday, followed by Padamala in Wayanad 13 cm, and Aralam in Kannur 12 cm.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Saurashtra & Kutch, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Chandigarh, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	35.5	27.8	Kozhikode	18	27.0	24.6
Ahmedabad	4	33.4	26.6	Kurnool	0.9	32.5	25.3
Aizawl	3	33.0	24.6	Lucknow	—	34.4	29.0
Allahabad	—	37.7	27.7	Madurai	—	35.4	27.5
Bengaluru	0.2	27.6	20.0	Mangaluru	6.3	27.2	23.6
Bhopal	2	33.4	26.2	Mumbai	1	32.8	25.4
Bhubaneswar	8.4	34.2	26.8	Mysuru	—	27.0	20.0
Chandigarh	41	32.3	27.9	New Delhi	—	37.2	29.8
Chennai	—	35.0	27.6	Patna	—	37.2	29.2
Coimbatore	2	30.0	23.2	Port Blair	48	29.6	23.6
Dehradun	4.4	28.2	24.6	Puducherry	—	33.0	25.1
Gangtok	12	25.8	18.6	Pune	1	30.0	24.7
Goa	96	29.0	24.6	Raipur	19.3	33.4	26.6
Guwahati	4	37.4	27.2	Ranchi	4	29.8	24.0
Hubballi	—	25.0	23.0	Shillong	7	25.7	17.5
Hyderabad	0.7	30.8	23.6	Shimla	—	27.0	22.4
Imphal	—	32.7	23.1	Srinagar	—	34.2	19.0
Jaipur	—	36.8	29.2	Thiruvananthapuram	6	28.6	24.2
Kochi	43	28.2	23.6	Tiruchi	—	34.9	27.4
Kohima	6	27.6	18.2	Vijayawada	—	34.0	26.4
Kolkata	4	34.6	27.8	Visakhapatnam	0.1	32.0	27.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.16	..—	16	... 108	96	
Bengaluru	.20	..26	59	..... —	...101	
Chennai	...2	...8	62	... 115	92	
Delhi	.20	..43	44	 97	...135	
Hyderabad	...8	..24	26	 45	72	
Kolkata	.16	..20	41	 25	24	
Lucknow	...9	..14	40	 61	...100	
Mumbai	..—	..70	63	 30	34	
Pune	..—	..35	79	 33	43	
Visakhapatnam	...8	..55	19	 46	74	

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 327 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Sangli, Maharashtra recorded a healthy AQI score of 16

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Centre asks States to ensure that members of queer community enjoy equal rights in prisons

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

The Centre has asked States/Union Territories to ensure that members of the queer community (LGBTQ+) get equal rights in prison and there is no discrimination in access to goods and services, especially prison visitation rights.

In a note to Home Secretaries and Heads of Prisons, the Ministry of Home Affairs said it had come to the notice of the Ministry that members of the queer community (LGBTQ+) were often discriminated against because of their gender identity or sexual orientation and faced violence and disrespect.

Referring to the Model Prison Manual, 2016, the MHA said "every prisoner shall be allowed reasonable facilities for seeing or communicating with, his/her family members, relatives, friends and legal advisers for the preparation of an appeal or for procuring bail or for arranging the management of his/her property and family affairs."

Also, the inmate should be allowed to have interviews with their family members, relatives, friends and legal advisers once in a fortnight. On admission, every prisoner should submit a list of persons who are likely to interview them and the interview be restricted to such visitors. The conversation at the interviews should be limited to private and domestic matters and no reference be made to prison administration/discipline and to other prisoners or politics.

The number of persons who may interview a prisoner at one time should ordinarily be limited to three. Interviews with female prisoners should, if practicable, take place in the female enclosure/ward. "It is reiterated that these provisions equally apply to the members of queer community and they can meet a person of their choice without any discrimination or judgement."

The MHA asked the prison authorities to sensitise the concerned officials at all levels to ensure that all persons were treated equally in a fair and just manner and no person, especially those belonging to the queer community, were discriminated against in any manner whatsoever.

Refrain from hate campaign against musician: Asif Ali

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Actor Asif Ali has said that it was not fair to unleash a hate campaign against musician Ramesh Narayan as he thanked all those who supported him after a video of the composer allegedly 'insulting' him at a movie event in Kochi went viral on Tuesday.

Pointing out that he was overwhelmed by the love and support he had received after the controversy, the actor said he had spoken to Mr. Narayan on Wednesday. "He had been trying to reach me since Tuesday. He was on the verge of tears as he apologised to me. I request all to refrain from the hate campaign against him as it was only a misunderstanding," the actor said.

Recalling the incident at the trailer launch of *Manorathangal,* the actor pointed out that the musician seemed worried after the anchor had called him with the wrong name. "I had moved to the side soon after handing over the memento him. I was not hurt by his action or words," he said.

A video of the incident showed the actor walking up towards the musician to hand over a memento. During the event, Mr. Narayan was seen receiving the award without eye contact with the actor. The musician was then seen waving to Mr. Jayaraj, asking him to come and present the memento to him. His demeanour changed immediately after the filmmaker presented him with the memento as they were seen smiling and hugging.

The actor had received support from various quarters for retaining his smile even after facing snub from the composer. Netizens were scathing in their remarks as they termed the musician's behaviour "unprofessional" and a "very poor attitude".

Stray dogs kill 18-month-old

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

An 18-month-old child was mauled to death by stray dogs in Adarsh Nagar in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

Preliminary enquiry revealed that the boy, Vihaan, was playing outside his house when the strays allegedly dragged him away before he was pounced on by other strays.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring it to the NOTICE of the General Public, that **Shri. Yogesh B,** aged about 32 years s/o. C. Babu R/at 144, Anjaneya Temple Road, Kakathiyanagar, Ittamadu, Banashankari 3rd Stage, BANGALORE – 560 085, is the full and absolute owner of the property bearing Site No. 144 of Ittamadu Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore, which is morefully described in the schedule below, acquired under Gift Deed dated 12/10/2023 executed by his father/ **Babu C**, registered as Document No. BSK-1-08549/2023-24 of Book – I in the office of the Senior Sub-Registrar, Basavanagudi (Banashankari), Bangalore.

It is further submitted **Yogesh B** intends to put up construction over the schedule property by availing construction/Housing Loan from LIC Housing Finance Ltd Bangalore.

Any person or person/s, Government of Karnataka/Block Development Officer/Tahasildar, Financial Institution/s/Co-operative Society Ltd/BDA/Statutory bodies/etc., having/asserting any right, title or interest/claims or intending to oppose the disbursement of loan in putting up construction over the schedule property/insists for NOC/etc., in any manner may file their objections to the undersigned within **10 (TEN) days** from the Publication of Notice hereof, along with documentary proof where after no such claims will be entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of Property bearing **Site No. 144** with Khatha No. 22 situated at **6th Cross, Kakathiyanagar, Ittamadu Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore,** with BBMP Ward No. 183 measuring East to West 40 feet, North to South 30 feet, in all measuring **1200 square feet** and bounded on the

East by : Road; West by : Site No. 143; North by : Site No. 138 &; South by : Road:

Shri. G.N. HARISH, Advocate,
Office at No. 312, Ground Floor, 21st 'A' Cross, VI Block, Jayanagar, BANGALORE - 560 070

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that my client **Mr. B.C. Girish Kumar S/o Late Channahanumaiah,** residing at No.2331, 9th Main Road, 2nd stage, E block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore -560010, have Lost/misplaced the Original Sale Deeds in respect of properties mentioned in schedule hereunder: **1.** Sale Deed dated 20/05/1982, Registered as No. 793, Book - I, Volume 504, Pages 27 to 31, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Rajajinagar, Bangalore. **2.** Sale Deed dated 18/12/1957, Registered as No. 5029, Book -I, Volume 1661, Pages 11 to 14, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, pertaining to property, which is now known as bearing Corporation Ward No.66, Subramanyanagar, BBMP - Old PID No: 9-78-29, SAS Base -No: 1021158. **No.2331,9th Main Road, 2nd stage, E block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore -560010** and also my clients have lodged necessary **Police Complaint vide lost report No. 0129360/2022 dated 05/01/2022,** issued by the Police unit Bangalore City police department. Finders please contact the undersigned at the address mentioned below. Any person or persons holding the said Original Sale deeds dealing with the said property on the basis of the sale deed will be doing so at their risk, not binding and shall be liable to criminal action. Finders, please contact the undersigned at the address mentioned below. Within a period of **7 days** from this date. Any future transaction by my client after the said period in the absence of the said Lost/misplaced shall be on the basis of the documents duplicate/certified copy of the same.

B.R. Natesh BA., LL.B.
ADVOCATE
No.637/B, 2nd Floor, Dr. Rajkumar Road, 1st Block, 2nd Stage, Rajajinagar, Bangalore- 560010. Mob: 9008561340
Email: professionalnatesh12@gmail.com

OFFICE OF RECOVERY OFFICER
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF FINANCE, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
31-31-21, Ground and 1st Floor, Narayana Bhavanam, Sai Baba Street, Dabagardens, Visakhapatnam-530020. Ph: 0891-2957045, E-mail: ro2.drtvpatnam@gmail.com

PROCLAMATION OF SALE-cum-E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
(See Rule 52(2) of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act, 1961)
RP/22/2016 in OA/347/2013

(1) Whereas a Recovery Certificate dated 23.12.2016 was issued by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Visakhapatnam, under sub-section (22) of section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 in **O.A. No.347/2013 between Canara Bank (e-Syndicate Bank), Main Branch, Guntur *Versus* M/s. Andhra Rice Oil Mills Pvt. Ltd. & Others** and forwarded the same for execution.

(2) Whereas the execution proceedings were initiated in R.P. No. 22/2016 for recovery of Rs. 20,72,50,462.27 ps. minus a sum of Rs.15,53,00,000/- (realized by bank) covered by Recovery Certificate with interest, costs, etc. specified therein from the following Certificate Debtors:-

(CD-1) M/s. Andhra Rice Oil Mills Pvt. Ltd., Rep by its Managing Director, Sri Mottupalli Haribabu, Chinna Kottapalli Village, Addanki Mandal, Prakasam District-523260.
(CD-2) Mr. Mottupalli Haribabu, S/o Obayya, D.No.1-352, Kundhuru Village, Santhamaguluru Mandal, Prakasam District-523303.
(CD-3) Mr. Mottupalli Surendra Babu, S/o Obayya, D.No.1-352, Kundhuru Village, Santhamaguluru Mandal, Prakasam District-523303.
(CD-4) Smt. Mottupalli Lavanya Nayak, W/o Hari Babu, D.No.1-352, Kundhuru Village, Santhamaguluru Mandal, Prakasam District-523303.
(CD-5) Sri Telaprolu Srinivasa Rao, D.No.4-39A, Kundhuru East, Kundhuru Village, Santhamaguluru Mandal, Prakasam District.
(CD-6) Smt. Sukanya Nayak, D.No.483, Valli Nilayam, Near Jayalakshmi School, Palaya Nagar Extension, M.S. Nagar Post, Bangalore.

(3) And whereas, the due is a sum of Rs. 47,01,36,994.64 ps. as on 25.09.2023 plus future interest, costs and expenses incurred/to be incurred in the Recovery Proceeding with till realization.

(4) Therefore, the undersigned ordered for Sale of the Schedule properties of Certificate Debtors mentioned hereunder in satisfaction of Recovery Certificate by adopting **"online e-Auction Sale"** through the website **https://www.bankeauctions.com** of the Service Provider. The details of the Date of Auction, Last date for submission of Bid form, Reserve Price, Earnest Money Deposit, Bid Increase Amount and Time of Auction are mentioned hereunder against each Item/Schedule of property:

Last Date for Bids: 21.08.2024 (4.00 PM) Date of Auction: 23.08.2024

Schedule & Item No.	Extent of the Property	Reserve Price (in Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs.)	Bid Increase Amount	Time of Auction *
Item Nos.1 to 4 of Schedule-C	Agricultural land of Ac.11.18 cents	Rs. 63,42,300/-	Rs. 6,34,230/-	Rs. 50,000/-	11.00 AM to 12.00 Noon

* Time of Auction - with an auto extension clause of 5 minutes each i.e. e-auction end time will be extended by 5 minutes each, if a bid is made before closure of the auction.

(5) At the sale, the public are invited to participate in "**online e-auction**" through the website **https://www.bankeauctions.com** of the service provider. The address details of Service Provider are: **M/s. C1 India Pvt. Ltd. Contact Person: Mr. Dharani Krishna, Contact No.9948182222, E-mail Id: andhra@c1india.com.**

(6) The intending participants/bidders are advised to go through the website **https://www.bankeauctions.com** for detailed terms and conditions of e-auction sale and are also required to contact the Service Provider for online registration, user ID, Password, help, procedure, online training about e-auction etc.,for submitting their Bid Forms and for taking part in e-auction sale proceedings.

(7) The intending participants shall deposit EMD amount by RTGS/NEFT/Funds Transfer to the credit of **Account No.209272434,** Name of the Account: SL-OL-NEFT RTGS, Bank & Branch: **Canara Bank (e-Syndicate Bank), Assets Recovery Management Branch, Visakhapatnam, IFSC Code: CNRB0000620** and submit the Bid Forms online with requisite details viz. proof of deposit of EMD, PAN Card, Address & ID Proof on or before the last date mentioned in the above table, and also send hard copy of Bid Form duly filled in along with self-attested copies of above documents by Registered Post/Speed Post/ Courier to the undersigned so as to reach on or before **22.08.2024** by 4.00 PM. Postal delays are not entertained.

(8) The intending participants are also advised to contact **Mr. B Jeyaseelan, Chief Manager,** (Contact No. **8332956773 Land Line No.0891-2724155), E-mail: cb13591@canarabank.com** for queries, inspection of schedule properties, perusal of copies of title deeds and latest encumbrance certificates to exercise due diligence and satisfy themselves about the title of property under auction sale. Branch Head of the Bank will hand over the property and related title deed documents to the successful bidder in whose favour the Sale will be confirmed by the undersigned.

SPECIFICATION OF PROPERTIES

SCHEDULE-C : PROPERTY BELONGING TO THE DEFENDANT NO.2 M.HARI BABU COVERED BY SALE DEED No. 2892/2005 dated 17.08.2005: Prakasam District, Madamanchipadu village, Vinukonda Mandal, Narasaraopeta Sub District a total extent of Ac.11-18 cts of agricultural land in S.No. 54, 47/5, 50/3, 50/4, 53/2, 53/3, 53/4, 53/5, 53/6 respectively and bounded by: **Item No.1:** Guntur District Narasaraopet Revenue division, Vinukonda Mandal with in the village panchayat, Madamanchipadu village D.No.54 out of Ac 13.75 cents area an extent of Ac 3.84 cents within the following boundaries: East: Land pertains to Gillellamudi Ramanjaneyulu etc., West: Land pertains to S.Kotaiah and others, North: Land pertains to Telaprolu Srinivasa Rao, South: Gundlakamma. **Item No.2:** An extent of Ac 1.30 cents in D.No.47/5 in Madamachipadu village within the following boundaries: East : D.No.47/6 land, West : D.No.47/4 land, North: Land pertains to Jillellamudi China Venkata Subbaiah, South: Road to Vinukonda. **Item No.3**: An extent of Ac 3.22 cents in D.No.50/3 to an extent of Ac 1.19 cents and in D.No.50/4 an extent of Ac 2.03 cents in Madamanchipadu village within the following boundaries: East : Land pertains to Jillellamudi Ramachandraiah, West: D.No.47/7 land, North: Land pertains to Jillellamudi China Venkata Subbaiah, South: Road to Vinukonda. **Item No.4**: **Total extent of Ac 2.82 cents** in D.No.53/2 to an extent of Ac 0.84 cents and in D.No.53/3 an extent of Ac 0.58 cents, D.No.53/4 an extent of Ac 0.52 cents and D.No.53/5 an extent of Ac 0.41 cents, D.No.53/6 an extent of 0.47 cents in Madamanchipadu village within the following boundaries: East: Land pertains to Garimidi Rambraham, West: D.No.52/5 Land, North: Road to Vinukonda, South: D.No.54 Land.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF THIS TRIBUNAL AT VISAKHAPATNAM ON THE 9th DAY OF JULY, 2024

Sd/- B.N.S.V.S.K. Bangarraju, Recovery Officer-II
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Visakhapatnam

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

E-Tender Notice No: Y/E.29/2024-25/29
Dated : 10.07.2024

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Ashokapuram Railway Colony - Reduction of Contract demand from 100KVA to 80KVA and also replacement of 2 Ct's and 2 Pt's HT metering cubicle by cable entry type 3 Ct's and 3 Pt's at RR No. HT 465	Rs. 6,41,421/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs on 31-07-2024**

E-Tender Notice No: Y/E.29/2024-25/30
Dated : 10.07.2024

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Construction of New OPD Block and other Specialties near existing Railway Hospital.	Rs. 13,92,422/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs on 31-07-2024**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/General
PUB/269/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Mysuru**
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No: CAO/CN/BNC/18/2024
Dated : 09-07-2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Appointment of Authority Engineer for Providing Project Management Services for Construction of New Broad Gauge Line Track between Sindhanur (excl.) (Ch:84820) and Raichur (excl.) (Ch:165000) (80.18km) Under Ginigera - Raichur New Line Project (165.57Km) Including Signalling, Telecommunications & Electrical Works through Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC). **(Tender Ref. No.: PMS-SINDHANUR-RAICHUR)**	Rs. 13,68,89,906/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 09-09-2024**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer / Construction / Works
Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/273/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

Government of Karnataka
P.M.POSHAN SHAKTHI NIRMAN(M.D.M) ZILLA PANCHAYAT OFFICE, HASSAN DISTRICT
Est1.MDMFT-Tender:29/2024-25 DATE:11-07-2024

e-TENDER PUBLISHMENT

Tender has been called from the registered Transporters for the year 2024-25 to transport food grains from 8 Taluks KFCSC Godawns of Hassan district to respective School cooking centers working under the programme P.M.Poshan Shakthi Nirman (M.D.M) Date and time to start of issuance of tender applications 16-07-2024, 11.00 AM Date and time of pre bid Meeting 29-07-2024, 11.30AM Last date and time to submit filled applications 14-08-2024, 5.30 PM Date and time of opening the Technical bid 17-08-2024, 11.00 AM Date and time of opening the Financial bid 21-08-2024, 11.00 AM E.M.D. Amount 2.5% OF TENDER AMOUNT (Rs.62.00 Lacs) Place of Opening the applications of Tender CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, ZILLA PANCHAYAT,HASSAN Address and Contact number for applications and more information THE EDUCATION OFFICER, P.M.POSHAN SHAKTHI NIRMAN (M.D.M),ZILLA PANCHAYAT, HASSAN Mobile no: 9972789909 E-MAIL ADRESS-eomdmhassan91@gmail.com

sd/- Chief Executive Officer,
Zilla Panchayath, Hassan.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೧/ಟೆಸನ/ಡಾಸನ/194/ಕೆಎಸ್.ಎಂಸಿಎ/2024–25

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients **Sri. PRAVEEN KUMAR .S,** S/o Sri.Sathyanarayana, Aged about 37 years & **Smt.NIRMALA D.K.,** W/o Sri.Praveen Kumar.S, Aged about 37 years, both are residing at No.23/1, 1st Floor, 13th Cross, Cubbonpet, Bengaluru-560002 are intending to purchase the Schedule Property from **Sri.V.G.SRINIVASA MURTHY,** S/o Sri.Gundurao, Aged about 57 years & **Smt. LAKSHMI RAJYAM,** W/o of Sri.V.G.Srinivasa Murthy, aged about 51 years, both are residing at No.104, Shyla Enclave, Flat No.S-1, 2nd Floor, 2nd Cross Road, Surveyor Street, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004. Any interested person/s having any manner of right or title or interest or claim or objection or however otherwise, may file his / her/ their objections or claims in writing to the below mentioned address with relevant documents in support of his / her /their claim or objection within **15 days** from the date of this public notice, failing which my clients will proceed to purchase the Schedule Property treating that there are no claims over the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Residential Property being Flat / Apartment **No.S-1,** Municipal No.104/4, PID No.50-25-104/4, in the Second Floor, having Super Built Up Area of **722 Square Feet,** comprising of RCC Roofing, Vitrified Tiles Flooring, Main Door with Teak Wood, Wood Frames, Flush Doors and Windows of UPVC, **One Car Parking** Space bearing No.C2, an Undivided Share of 16.4% of land in the Apartment known as **"SHYLA ENCLAVE",** constructed over the Property bearing Municipal No.104, situated at **2nd Cross Road, Surveyor Street, Bandunavara Beedi, Basavanagudi, Begnaluru,** measuring East to West 29 feet and North to South 72.6 feet and bounded on:

East by : Property No.103, West by : Property No.105, North by : Road, South by : Property No.104/1.

Lokesha.G, Advocate,
No. 235, 8th Main, Byrasandra, Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560011
Mob: 9845307906

IN THE HON'BLE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BANGALORE
(Original Jurisdiction)
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 1956
AND
IN THE MATTER OF
M/S PUSAT ENGINEERS PVT. LTD.

COMPANY PETITION No. 257/2015

BETWEEN:

M/S CROMPTON GREAVES CONSUMER ELECTRICALS LTD. Having office at - CG House, Dr. Annie Besant Road, Worli, Mumbai - 400 030. And regional office at - No. 3, Dr. MGR Salai, Nugambokom, Chennai - 600 034.
Represented by its Deputy Manager - Legal Sri Rajesh D.R **...PETITIONER**

AND :

M/S PUSAT ENGINEERS PVT. LTD. #38/4, Coles Road Cross, Frazer Town, Bangalore - 560 005 Represented by its Director, Puneet Kochhar.
...RESPONDENT

ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION

Notice is hereby given that a petition under Section 433 (e) & (f) of the Companies Act, 1956 for winding up of the above-named company by the High Court of Karnataka, Bangalore, was presented on the 29th day of October 2015 and the said petition will be heard before the Court on the **1st day of August 2024.**

Any creditor, contributory, or other person desirous of supporting or opposing the making of an order on the said Petition should send to the Petitioner's Advocate notice of his intention signed by him or his Advocate not less than 5 days before the date fixed for the hearing of the Petitioned appear at the hearing for the purpose in person or by his advocate. A copy of the Petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any creditor or contributory on payment of the prescribed charges for the same.

Any Affidavit intended to be used in opposition to the petition should be filed in the said Court and a copy served on the Petitioner or his Advocate in not less than 5 days before the fixed date for the hearing.

Given under my hand and seal of this Court this day of 4th July 2024.

By order of the Hon'ble Court,
Assistant Registrar, High Court of Karnataka, Bangalore.

Advocate for Petition : **KNS Legal,**
No. 11/3-5, 2nd Floor, Palace Loop Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bangalore - 560 052.

FORM A
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
(Regulation 14 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Voluntary Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2017)
FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE STAKEHOLDERS OF
ASOCIETY CONSULTING INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED

1	NAME OF CORPORATE PERSON	ASOCIETYCONSULTING INDIAPRIVATE LIMITED
2	DATE OF INCORPORATION OF CORPORATE PERSON	08/01/2019
3	AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH CORPORATE PERSON IS INCORPORATED / REGISTERED	ROC-Bangalore
4	CORPORATE IDENTITY NUMBER / LIMITED LIABILITY IDENTITY NUMBER OF CORPORATE PERSON	U72900KA2019FTC120108
5	ADDRESS OF THE REGISTERED OFFICE AND PRINCIPAL OFFICE (IF ANY) OF CORPORATE PERSON	Ground floor, Beech E-1, Outer Ring Road, Manyata Embassy Business Park, Nagavara Bangalore, Karnataka, India, 560045
6	IQUIDATION COMMENCEMENT DATE OF CORPORATE PERSON	13.07.2024
7	NAME, ADDRESS, EMAIL ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER AND THE REGISTRATION NUMBER OF THE LIQUIDATOR, AUTHORISATION FOR ASSIGNMENT (AFA) Validity	CS THIRUPAL GORIGE NO. 87, 2ND FLOOR, 21ST CROSS, 7TH MAIN, N S. PALYA, BTM 2ND STAGE, BANGALORE-560076, KARNATAKA, INDIA CELL +91 94483 84064, LL +080 7963 4233 EMAIL: GTHIRUPAL@GMAIL.COM IP REG. NO. IBBI/IPA-002/IP-N00016/2016-17/10030 AFA valid up to 30.06.2025
8	LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF CLAIMS	12.08.2024

Notice is hereby given that **ASOCIETY CONSULTING INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED** has commenced voluntary liquidation on **13.07.2024.**

The stakeholders of **ASOCIETY CONSULTING INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED** are hereby called upon to submit a proof of their claims, on or before12.08.2024 to the liquidator at the address mentioned against item 7.

The financial creditors shall submit their proof of claims by electronic means only. All other stakeholders may submit the proof of claims in person, by post or by electronic means.

Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.

Sd/-
Thirupal Gorige
Liquidator

Date : 17.07.2024
Place : Bangalore

Arrest and liberty

Is proof of necessity a pre-requisite for the ED to arrest accused under PMLA?

Two observations made in different contexts by the Supreme Court of India have raised relevant issues concerning personal liberty. The cases related to actions under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), and the significance of these observations lies in the extent to which courts are inclined to protect personal liberty in the face of a determined government that wants its agencies to have their way. One concerned the question whether an officer arresting a person on money-laundering charges should demonstrate the necessity for arrest for the action to be deemed valid; and the other voiced shock and revulsion at the ease and quickness with which courts were staying reasoned orders granting bail. A Bench headed by Justice Sanjiv Khanna granted interim bail, for the second time since his arrest in March, to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, in the course of a discussion on the legality of his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). The 64-page verdict ended with a reference to a larger Bench the question whether the ED would have to prove the need or "necessity to arrest" a person, before effecting an arrest. Section 19 of PMLA speaks of the arresting officer being required to have "reason to believe" that the person is guilty of money-laundering before effecting arrest.

The PMLA casts a statutory obligation on an officer to both record reasons for arrest and convey grounds for arrest to the accused. Whether these obligations include a duty to demonstrate the necessity to arrest the person will have to be decided. It is established that the existence of a power is not sufficient justification for exercising it. The heartening feature of the Court's order is that it lays down the view that the authorised officer's decision on arrest ought to be rooted in compliance with statutory requirements, and one that a magistrate or judge can examine. The Court has also done well to reiterate that arrests under the PMLA cannot be on a mere whim; and that decisions during investigation should consider exculpatory material too, and not merely material against the accused. The other issue, regarding another Bench's shock over courts staying bail orders, touches upon a key aspect of contemporary judicial functioning. The vehemence with which the prosecution argues its case, be it against bail or challenging a court's order granting it, seems to be a major factor in the approach of higher courts. As the Bench noted, a stay on reasoned orders ought to be rare exceptions based on grounds such as perversity by the lower court, and not done as a matter of routine.

In search of jobs

Technology must be harnessed for easing burden and for efficiency

Employment generation will remain a major challenge before the Narendra Modi government in its third term, and the upcoming Union Budget is expected to take note of it. There are no easy ways out, given the swelling numbers of young job seekers, and the changing nature of the economy that requires fewer workers, thanks to rapid technological advancement. Recent studies have highlighted the seriousness of the challenge. The Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) notes that just 21% of the total establishments used the Internet for entrepreneurial activities. The survey, quite similar to a previous report of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), says the unincorporated non-agricultural economy employed about 11 crore workers during October 2022 to September 2023 in comparison to about 9.8 crore workers during 2021-22. The ILO's India Employment Report had also warned that the share of manufacturing employment was stagnant, at around 12%-14% and the slow transition of jobs from agriculture to non agriculture reversed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A Citigroup report too said the current rate of job creation will not be sufficient to meet future demand. The ASUSE had also noted that 'Other Services' contributed the maximum share (36.45%) to the total employment followed by 'trading' (35.61%) and 'manufacturing' (27.94%). Various Periodic Labour Force Surveys had also noted that 45.76% of the total workforce was engaged in agriculture and allied sectors during 2022-23.

While the government cannot magically change the situation, it can initiate thoughts about solutions. The Swadeshi Jagran Manch has demanded that the Centre impose a robot tax and incentivise job creation in the Budget. The trade unions have asked the Centre to convene the long-pending Indian Labour Conference. Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya's decision to reach out to trade unions is a positive development, but he must have stronger prescriptions than the Labour Codes to stop job losses and generate more jobs. Technological innovations should be to reduce the workload of people, and not to create hurdles for their livelihood. To industrialise agriculture production, the government should consider more public and cooperative investment to create more jobs and ease the load on farmers. It has to bring on board the private and public sectors, labour unions, States and political parties to design a growth model with job creation at its centre. Recent global experiences suggest that economic growth without employment growth can cause social and political upheavals. This is not a problem that can be explained away, and an honest account of the problem will be a good starting point for mitigative measures.

Intergenerational equity as tax devolution criterion

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The devolution of Union tax revenue to States is a topic that has been in discussion in the political sphere in recent times. However, it is an evergreen subject of discussion for economists. One of the points in this discussion is the factors in the horizontal distribution of States' share in Union tax revenue among States. The Finance Commission (FC) decides the horizontal distribution formula once every five years. Despite repeated quinquennial revisits to this distribution formula, conceptually, it is predictable that equity is prioritised over efficiency. Equity in the distribution formula is about intragenerational equity, that is, to redistribute tax revenue among States. The undesirable consequence of this is the accentuation of intergenerational inequity within States. The argument is that intergenerational equity should be a factor in India's horizontal distribution formula for tax devolution.

Intergenerational fiscal equity

In general, intergenerational equity is the principle of providing equal opportunities and outcomes to every generation. Intergenerational equity ensures that the decisions or actions of current generations should not burden the future generation. From a public finance point of view, it refers to a situation where every generation pays for the public services it receives and does not burden the future generation through borrowings.

For any government, there are only two ways to raise its revenue: tax or borrowing. If, in a period, the tax revenue equals the current expenditure of the government, then the current taxpayers pay for the public services they receive. If the government finances the current expenditure through borrowings, it means the future generation is going to pay higher taxes to repay this borrowing and interest. In other words, borrowing to meet the current expenditure of the government amounts to intergenerational inequity.

There is an argument in fiscal economics called Ricardian Equivalence Theory that whenever the government resorts to borrowing to finance current expenditure, households react through higher savings and thus enable the future generation to pay higher taxes as well as keep aggregate demand in the economy constant over different periods. This theory assumes that the current generation pays tax less than the value of the current public services it receives, and thus saves. Whereas in our present federal situation this is not the case. Households in developed States pay taxes that are not entirely used within the specific States, thus compelling such States to borrow more or curtail current expenditure. On the contrary, households in developing States pay taxes much less than the value of current expenditure and fill the gap by receiving higher financial transfers from the Union government.

The Finance Commission needs to have a relook at the indicators in rewarding State fiscal efficiency

Versus intragenerational equity

To give the broader picture, let us divide some of the major States into high-income and low-income – Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Haryana as high-income States and Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha and Jharkhand as low-income States. Let us analyse only the 14th FC period (2015-20). The own tax revenue financed up to 59.3% of revenue expenditure in high-income States, while in low-income States, their own tax revenue was financing only 35.9%. The Revenue Expenditure to GSDP ratio for high-income States was 10.9%, which is lower than the similar ratio of 18.3% for low-income States. Thus, while high-income States curtailed their revenue expenditure and began financing a substantial part of it through their own tax revenues, the low-income States not only had higher Revenue Expenditure to GSDP but also financed only a smaller portion of it through their own tax revenues. Nearly 57.7% of revenue expenditure in low-income States was financed by Union financial transfers, and only 27.6% of revenue expenditure was financed by Union financial transfers in high-income States.

We can see three aspects of federal finances. First, low-income States finance a smaller portion of their revenue expenditure with their own tax revenue and also receive larger amounts of Union financial transfers. Second, high-income States finance a substantial portion of their revenue expenditure with their own tax revenue but receive too little Union financial transfers. Third, we can also deduce that the high-income States had to incur a deficit of 13.1%, and the low-income States ended up with a deficit of only 6.4% of revenue expenditure. Thus, the high-income States raise higher amounts of their own tax revenue and curtail their own revenue expenditure, yet incur higher deficits because of lower Union financial transfers compared to low-income States.

People of a State know the level of direct and indirect taxes they pay and expect an equivalent value of services from the government. So, the public services provided to the people of a State by both the State and the Union government should match this expectation. Any other fiscal behaviour would only result in burdening the high-income States with higher tax payments for both present and future generations. We understand the need for intragenerational equity across States in a federal system as it provides a larger unified market for everyone. Balancing both intragenerational and intergenerational equity is important, and it reiterates the need to balance equity and efficiency in the distribution formula for tax devolution to States. This squarely falls under the purview of the FC to have a fair mechanism to address the conflicting equity issues

Address conflicting equities

Usually, FCs use indicators such as per capita income, population, and area in the distribution formula. These indicators reflect the differences between States in terms of demand for public services (population and area) and the size of public revenue available (per capita income). These indicators carry a larger weight and assure equity in the distribution of Union financial transfers among States. Variables such as tax effort and fiscal discipline carry smaller weight in the distribution formula to reward the fiscal efficiency of States.

You may find that the equity variables are proxy variables, and that they do not reflect the actual fiscal situations in States. The efficiency indicators are fiscal variables from the State budget. The Union financial transfers make an impact only on the Budget and alter the fiscal behaviour of States. Therefore, it is appropriate to include more fiscal variables in the tax devolution criterion such that the Union financial transfers change the fiscal behaviour of the States in the desired direction.

Every State has a Fiscal Responsibility Act restricting the quantum of deficit and public debt. However, reduced Union financial transfers to some States compel them to breach this legal limit. Therefore, the FC should assign a larger weight to fiscal indicators and incentivise tax effort and expenditure efficiency through larger Union financial transfers. This will automatically ensure intergenerational fiscal equity and sustainable debt management by States.

Choosing the right track to cut post-harvest losses

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India ranks second in global agriculture production, but its share in global agricultural exports is only 2.4%, placing it eighth in the world. This is attributed to several factors that include low productivity, an inability to meet desired quality standards and inefficiencies in the supply chain such as an inadequate transportation network and infrastructure, which also leads to significant post-harvest losses.

India's post-harvest losses amount to approximately ₹1,52,790 crore annually, according to a Ministry of Food Processing Industries 2022 study. As India's population continues to grow, the challenge of meeting the food and nutrition demand of its people will continue to intensify. While growing more food is part of the solution, the prevention of post-harvest losses is crucial.

A closer look at India's post-harvest loss

The biggest loss is from perishable commodities, which include livestock produce such as eggs, fish and meat (22%), fruits (19%) and vegetables (18%). During the export of perishables, approximately 19% of food is lost, particularly at the import-country (trade partner) stage. Storage, transportation and marketing play a critical role in ensuring that perishable products reach the consumer in time. The strengthening of agri-logistics is recognised as a priority by the Committee on Doubling Farmer's Income (DFI).

There are multiple logistical requirements in a single supply chain. Starting with first mile transport from farmgate to *mandi* (wholesale/retail), long haul or wholesale transportation by rail, road, water or air, and last mile transportation to the consumer. The trade of perishables faces a time shortage once the crop is harvested. The latest agriculture Census shows that 86% of farmers in India are small and marginal (SMF). They struggle to attain economy of scale due to the small production. Together with a lack of assured market connectivity, this results in post-harvest losses, which includes income losses for the farmers.

Integrating the Railways with agricultural product logistics management can cut post-harvest losses significantly; it will also help the environment

In India, food price volatility has been caused partly by supply constraints affecting perishable produce. As in a NITI Aayog report, the revenue of the Indian Railways is primarily driven by freight transport, which includes commodities such as iron, steel, fertilizers and agricultural produce. In the 2022 fiscal year, it accounted for 75% of its total earnings. The Indian Railways efficiently connects urban centres and rural areas across the country. The Food Corporation of India is heavily dependent on the Indian Railways to move approximately 90% of its food grains. In contrast, about 97% of fruits and vegetables are transported by road.

Initiatives by the Railways

The Indian Railways has taken a few initiatives to improve its freight operations in perishables. The truck-on-train service carries loaded trucks on railway wagons. Efforts are being made to expand this service following successful trial runs involving commodities such as milk and cattle feed. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Railways introduced parcel special trains to transport perishables and seeds between market and producers.

Additionally, to support SMFs, the Kisan Rail was initiated to connect perishables (inclusive of milk, meat and fish) production surplus regions to consumption regions more efficiently. A recent study highlighted the impact of the Kisan Rail scheme on reducing post-harvest losses and enhancing farmer incomes in India. For example, grape growers in Nashik, Maharashtra, secured a net profit of ₹5,000 per quintal by supplying about 22,000 quintals using Kisan Rail. This highlights the advantage of using rail-based long-haul of fruits and vegetables.

In recent times, the role of the Railways in the agricultural sector has shown promising results. However, initiatives must also focus on increasing awareness and accessibility of farmers to available Railway schemes. Friends of Champions 12.3 India, a coalition of food supply chain actors powered by WRI India, also identified that multiple touch points during the transport of perishables using the Railways is a challenge.

Therefore, investment in specialised wagons for temperature-controlled transport and the establishment of rail-side facilities for safe cargo handling are essential. This would also present a significant opportunity to enhance food safety in the agriculture sector, by minimising spoilage and contamination risks, thereby supporting both domestic and export markets. Further, the DFI committee recommends streamlining loading and unloading processes to minimise transit times. It also emphasises addressing staffing shortages through recruitment and training initiatives. Prioritising the Railways over roadways, particularly for fruit and vegetable transportation, promises efficient transportation.

Untapped opportunities

The Railways offers a tremendous opportunity to reduce post-harvest losses and positively impact not just livelihoods but also the environment. Findings from the Logistics Division, Ministry of Commerce, state that the Indian Railways generates up to 80% less carbon dioxide for freight traffic than road transport.

There is a need for adopting systems-based approach, cutting across modes of transport and geographies. The private sector can play a crucial role in enhancing operational efficiency and strengthening the rail infrastructure through public-private partnerships. The budgetary allocation for agriculture 2024 also aims to bridge the farm-to-market gap with modern infrastructure and value-addition support. Such Railway initiatives complement these efforts by supporting the efficient transportation of perishable goods and minimising post-harvest losses.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No value for human life

The media and political circles in Kerala celebrated the State's top rank in the SDG index with great fervour. However, just days after this achievement, came the news of the death of a sanitation worker (Inside pages, July 16). The citizen is ultimately responsible for this tragedy. The fact is that large amounts of non-biodegradable waste would not have ended up in the sewers if we had a basic civic sense. It was also distressing to have images of the rescue personnel diving into filth.

A thorough study is needed to understand how waste is collected and disposed of in our towns and metros. Timely inspections should be conducted, and authorities held accountable if lapses are found at each stage. Heavy fines should be imposed from their personal accounts. The Amayizhanchan canal incident is a stark reminder that we have not learned any lessons from the deadly fire at the Brahmapuram treatment plant last year. We have failed Joy and the millions of disadvantaged once again.

Cyril Cherian,
Thiruvananthapuram

The tragic death of a sanitary worker in Kerala who had been entrusted with the job of cleaning a clogged sewer in a canal in Thiruvananthapuram is yet another case which conclusively proves that there is no value for human life. The lives of those who are at the bottom of the pyramid are not worth a dime. While the various agencies that were involved in retrieving the worker's body need to be commended, those who assigned the hazardous task to the worker without ensuring any safeguards whatsoever should face the full force of the law. The Kerala government should announce a proper solatium to the family. The Indian Railways that had outsourced the job to a private agency should also be held to account.

C.V. Aravind,
Bengaluru

Baffling

The curious case of IAS probationer, Puja Khedkar, has cast a shadow on the integrity of the civil services selection and training programme (Inside pages, "Puja Khedkar recalled to Mussoorie academy", July 17). The reports raise important questions about the process of selection for the prestigious all-India service. How could her dubious claims and deceitful acts go undetected? Is it that easy to hoodwink the UPSC? The case is a reflection on the deficiencies in the training imparted to probationers.

M. Jameel Ahmed,
Mysuru

Corrections & Clarifications

The text of a report ('Sport' page, July 15, 2024), "Samson and Mukesh help Men in Blue sign off with a win and a 4-1 scoreline", said Shivam Dube bagged one wicket for 25 runs, while the scoreboard mentioned it as two wickets for 25 runs. The scoreboard is correct.

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The problems with sub-caste reservations

Sukhadeo Thorat

Former Chairman of the University Grants Commission and Professor Emeritus at JNU

The Supreme Court has reserved the decision on sub-caste reservation for SC/STs. Any decision on sub-caste reservation needed to be justified not only on legal grounds but also on academic grounds. The academic basis for sub-caste reservation seems to be weak. So far, the government has used three policy instruments namely legal safeguards against caste discrimination, reservation in the legislature, public jobs, education institutions, and measures to improve ownership of capital assets such as land, businesses and education levels.

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, who struggled for 30 years, justified these three sets of policy measures due to the denial of equal civic and property rights, employment, and education, as well as the physical and social isolation of untouchables as a whole, not specific sub-castes within the untouchable community since all suffered similarly from untouchability. But it needs to be understood that the three measures, namely legal safeguards, reservation, and economic/education empowerment measures were proposed as a complement to each other and not as substitutes or standalone solutions. Clarification on the interconnection between these three measures is essential to bring some insight on the issue of sub-caste reservation.

As a first step, Ambedkar proposed legal safeguards against caste discrimination. He also believed that the law by itself would not ensure a fair share for untouchables in the legislature, jobs, and education. Therefore, the reservation was proposed as supplementary to legal measures. The legal safeguards and reservations together ensure a fair share in the "present."

He also argued that while these measures address discrimination in the "present", they have limitations in dealing with the consequences of past denials of the right to property, employment and education. Therefore, a third policy to improve the ownership of capital assets like land, business, and education was thought to be essential as complementary measure to the reservation policy. The purpose was to enhance the capabilities of untouchable youth to seek education and become capable of securing jobs under reservation.

Reservations in the legislature, public jobs and education institutions was needed for untouchables as a whole with a "social group focus". The policy of economic empowerment was thought to be focused on those untouchable "individuals" who lack income earning capital assets and education. Therefore, any decision on sub-caste reservation must take these propositions into consideration. The supporters of sub-caste reservation argue that some sub-castes benefitted more than others, thus, the sub-castes that lag behind should have separate quotas. Assuming that some sub-castes lag behind others in job reservations, the low share may not necessarily be due to discrimination by other sub-castes. Some may lag behind in public jobs because they suffered from low education, which in turn is due to a lack of income earning capital assets. This reduces their capability to seek public jobs.

If this is the case, then the policy to improve the share of these sub-castes in jobs and admissions to educational institutions must focus on enhancing their ownership of capital assets and education. It should be focused on those SC "individuals" who lack ownership of capital assets and education. If the sub-caste reservation is given without improving their capital ownership and educational participation, they may continue to have a low share in jobs and education, as the relatively better-off will have an edge in accessing jobs and education, which in all probability is the case even today. So, the policy of economic and educational empowerment, which Ambedkar suggested for adequate utilisation of the reservation policy, is a better alternative than sub-caste reservations with low capital ownership and low education.

It needs to be recognised by the legal authority that legal solutions for discriminated groups are determined by economic and social realities. In this context, the legal authority making the decision has to know the extent to which the under-representation in jobs of some SC sub-castes is due to caste discrimination, and the extent to which it is due to a lack of income sources and low education. If discrimination by other sub-castes is the reason for under-representation, which is unlikely, there may be a case for sub-caste reservations. But if it is due to a lack of capabilities on account of low income and education, then an "individual focus" policy is a better alternative, which will enable them to make effective use of job reservations.

The under-representation of some sub-castes, who seek sub-caste reservation, is mainly due to a lack of income earning assets and education, and unlikely due to discrimination by other SC sub-castes. The problem of low participation of some sub-castes in job reservation will have to be dealt with by improving their ownership of capital assets and education levels, which in turn will improve their capabilities to access jobs under reservation and education. But if legal authorities prefer sub-caste reservations without academic justification and the factual reality based on data of sub-castes, the problem may remain unaddressed. Besides, it will open the floodgates of demand for sub-caste reservations by thousands of sub-castes/tribes from SC/ST/OBC. In that case, the reservation policy will be a mirror image of caste society with its innumerable sub-castes.

Problem of low participation of some sub-castes in job reservation will have to be dealt with by improving their ownership of capital assets and education levels

Govt.-Governor rift in West Bengal

The conflict is creating several challenges, affecting the State's overall governance

STATE OF PLAY

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With every passing week, relations between Raj Bhavan, Kolkata, and the West Bengal government are touching a new low. It is no longer only about pending Bills and the appointment of Vice Chancellors to State universities; there are far more serious issues which are resulting in administrative and legislative bottlenecks.

In the past few days, Governor C. V. Ananda Bose's insistence on action against the Kolkata Police Commissioner and an IPS officer posted as Deputy Commissioner of Kolkata Police's Central Division for setting up a committee to probe sexual harassment allegations against him has dominated headlines. This week, a defamation petition filed by the Governor against Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee came up for hearing before the Calcutta High Court, which has restrained Ms. Banerjee from making any defamatory statements against the Governor till August 14. The West Bengal government has also approached the Supreme Court alleging that the Governor has been withholding key Bills passed by the State Assembly.

While questions about whether the Governor or the Ministry of Home Affairs can unilaterally take action against IPS officers or the constitutional and political head can be locked in a defamation suit may be pertinent, the bigger issue is that differences between the constitutional head and the political head are hampering the day to day functioning of the government.

Relations between the Governor and the Chief Minister have been declining for the past several months, but they reached a nadir after Mr. Bose filed a defamation case against Ms. Banerjee. What precipitated the situation was a police complaint against the Governor by a Raj Bhavan employee who alleged sexual harassment against him. Even though the Governor has immunity under Article 361 which states that no criminal proceedings shall be initiated against the Governor of a State in any court during the term of his office, the Kolkata Police set up a special investigation team to probe the allegations and tried to record statements of Raj Bhavan employees.

For the past one-and-a-half decade, there's been a constant tussle between Raj Bhavan and the West Bengal government, which escalated after 2006.

During the last term of the Left Front, former Governor Gopalkrishna Gandhi's statements on the Nandigram violence, calling out the "cold horror" prevailing in the region, had embarrassed the government. When the Trinamool Congress came to power, relations between Raj Bhavan and the West Bengal government were far from being cordial during the regime of several former Governors like M.K. Narayanan, Late Keshari Nath Tripathi and more recently Jagdeep Dhankhar. There are several instances that reflected tensions in the ties.

The regime of Mr. Bose as Governor started with a spirit of cooperation, but soon differences started emerging over the appointment of Vice Chancellors of State-run universities. With the Governor and the State government locked in legal disputes, political observers believe that the bitterness in ties has reached a point of no return.

The differences between Raj Bhavan and the State government have led to tensions in State-Centre relations too. The oath administered to the Governor under Article 159 says that the Governor will preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law and will devote himself to the service and well-being of the people of the State. However, the perpetual dispute has not been of any service to the 10-crore population of the State. Moreover, a situation where the Governor is raising questions about the functioning of the government under him, and the Ministers targeting the constitutional head, is not a healthy sign.

The Governor and the State government need to take a step back and complement each other's functioning rather than contradict each other.

It is not necessary that the Governor should make his opinions public on every issue relating to the State government and neither it is imperative that the State government has to react to such criticism. It is high time that both the Governor and the State government break the cycle, settle disputes outside the courts and work unitedly for the people. There are far more pressing issues in West Bengal that require the attention of the State government and Raj Bhavan.

Nepal's governments are the most unstable in the world

13 Prime Ministers have served in 30 tenures since Nepal became a democracy in 1990

DATA POINT

Srinivasan Ramani

In yet another twist in the tale of political coalitions and changes in the post of the head of government, Khadga Prasad Oli of the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) became the Prime Minister of Nepal early this week, the fourth time he is holding the post. Mr. Oli got the top post after his party withdrew support to the government led by Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist-Centre) leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal and formed the government with the support of the Opposition party, Nepali Congress (NC).

Mr. Dahal's party had won only 32 seats in the 2022 general elections, in alliance with the NC –which won 89 seats – and other parties but had no qualms about forming the government as the PM, with the support of Mr. Oli's UML (78 seats), which was part of the opposing coalition. Following his ascension to the post, Mr. Dahal went on to face four trust votes after shifting alliances each time to remain in power for nearly two years. The coming together of the UML and the NC led to the fall of Mr. Dahal's government as he lost his fifth vote of confidence, 63 to 194 in the 275-member House of Representatives.

Mr. Oli's new government is the 30th instance of a head of government since Nepal became an elected democracy in 1990. From 1990 to 2008, the country was a constitutional monarchy with an elected parliament and the PM was the head of government, except for a brief period when erstwhile king Gyanendra usurped power. Since 2008, the country has been a constitutional republic. **Table 1** lists all the heads of government from 1990 to present.

Despite the change from being a constitutional monarchy to a republic, no Prime Minister has had the opportunity to serve a full term. The late G.P. Koirala had the longest tenure as PM, three years and 188 days between 26 May 1991 and 30 November 1994.

Partially, the fact that PMs do not serve their full terms is related to Nepal's coalitional politics due to a fractured polity, that has become more diverse since 2008 and since the promulgation of the 2015 Constitution, which guaranteed proportional representation for some seats in the Pratinidhi Sabha (House of Representatives). While there have been 30 tenures for PMs in the last 34 years, only 13 individuals have served as PMs.

But the frequent changes in government with tenures far shorter than the full five years means that Nepal has one of the most unstable governments. **Table 2** lists the top 20 countries with the highest number of completed tenures (by heads of government) from 1990 till August 2021. San Marino has had the highest number of tenures – 62 with an average tenure of six months, but this is by design as heads of government serve six-month terms. Bosnia-Herzegovina is second with 35 terms, but the nation's presidency is a three-member collective body, whose chairperson rotates every eight months or so.

Nepal leads all countries with non-mandated "completed" tenures – 25, with each tenure averaging only 14.72 months or nearly a year and three months only. The repeated changes in government and what is perceived as a "game of thrones" in Nepal has meant that the promise of a stable, democratic and federal republic order, envisaged by the two Jan Andolans – one in 1989-90 and the other between 2005 and 2008 – resulting in a popularly elected Constituent Assembly, has been belied so far. This has led to some, such as former PM Baburam Bhattarai, suggesting the need for a directly headed head of government (President) to ensure a stable term for the executive.

Game of thrones

Nepal has had the most number of incomplete (and shortest) tenures for heads of government since 1990

Newly elected Nepalese PM Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli, speaks with the ex-PM Sher Bahadur Deuba, after taking oath in Kathmandu, 2018. FILE PHOTO

TABLE 1 CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY FEDERAL REPUBLIC

The table lists all the heads of government (Prime Ministers mostly) of Nepal since its turn towards electoral democracy in 1990

S.no	Head of govt.	Tenure	Party	Term	Days
1	KP Bhattarai	Apr.90 - May.91	NC	1st	402
2	GP Koirala	May.91 - Nov.94	NC	1st	1283
3	Manamohan Adhikari	Nov.94 - Sep.95	UML	1st	286
4	Sher Bahadur Deuba	Sep.95 - Mar.97	NC	1st	546
5	Lokendra Chand	Mar.97 - Oct.97	RPP (C)	3rd	209
6	Surya Thapa	Oct.97 - Apr.98	RPP (C)	4th	190
7	GP Koirala	Apr.98 - May.99	NC	2nd	411
8	KP Bhattarai	May.99 - Mar.00	NC	2nd	296
9	GP Koirala	Mar.00 - Jul.01	NC	3rd	491
10	Sher Bahadur Deuba	Jul.01 - Oct.02	NC	2nd	435
11	Gyanendra*	Oct.02 - Oct.02	—	--	7
12	Lokendra Chand	Oct.02 - Jun.03	RPP	4th	237
13	Surya Thapa	Jun.03 - Jun.04	RPP	5th	364
14	Sher Bahadur Deuba	Jun.04 - Feb.05	NC(D)	3rd	243
15	Gyanendra*	Feb.05 - Apr.06	—	--	448
16	GP Koirala	Apr.06 - May.08	NC	4th	763
16	GP Koirala	May.08 - Aug.08	NC	5th	82
17	Pushpa Dahal	Aug.08 - May.09	UCPN(M)	1st	280
18	Madhav Nepal	May.09 - Feb.11	UML	1st	622
19	Jhala Nath Khanal	Feb.11 - Aug.11	UML	1st	204
20	Baburam Bhattarai	Aug.11 - Mar.13	UCPN(M)	1st	562
21	Khil Raj Regmi	Mar.13 - Feb.14	Ind.	1st	334
22	Sushil Koirala	Feb.14 - Oct.15	NC	1st	608
23	KP Oli	Oct.15 - Aug.16	UML	1st	297
24	Pushpa Dahal	Aug.16 - Jun.17	CPN(M-C)	2nd	307
25	Sher Bahadur Deuba	Jun.17 - Feb.18	NC	4th	253
26	KP Oli	Feb.18 - May.21	UML	2nd	1183
27	KP Oli	May.21 - Jul.21	UML	3rd	60
28	Sher Bahadur Deuba	Jul.21 - Dec.22	NC	5th	531
29	Pushpa Dahal	Dec.22 - Jul.24	CPN(M-C)	3rd	567
30	KP Oli	Jul.24 -	UML	4th	

TABLE 2

The table lists countries in descending order of number of tenures of heads of government since 1990

Country	Tenures	Avg. Months**	Mandated?
San Marino	62	6.0	Yes
Bosnia-Herzegovina	35	9.8	Yes
Switzerland	31	12.0	Yes
Nepal	25^	14.7	No
Vanuatu	22	15.6	No
Bulgaria	17	21.8	No
Nauru	17	16.8	No
Moldova	16	22.8	No
Japan	15	23.1	No
Italy	15	22.9	No
Latvia	15	22.9	No
Thailand	15	18.5	No
Pakistan	14	23.9	No
Romania	14	19.9	No
Bhutan	14	17.4	No#
Haiti	13	28.9	No
Estonia	12	29.3	No
Greece	12	29.3	No
North Macedonia	12	28.8	No
Solomon Islands	12	25.8	No

** Direct rule by the ex-monarch Gyanendra*

^ The data excludes two tenures of direct rule by ex-king Gyanendra and the completed tenures after August 2021

*** Average tenure in months*

 # Appointed PM till 2008, elected since then (stable tenures)

? Was the short tenure equal to the mandated number of months for each tenure? For example, in San Marino, each government's mandated tenure is six months and in Switzerland, the mandated tenure is one year

ADAPTED FROM: BELL, CURTIS, BESAW, CLAYTON., FRANK, MATTHEW. 2021. THE RULERS, ELECTIONS, AND IRREGULAR GOVERNANCE (REIGN) DATASET. BROOMFIELD, CO: ONE EARTH FUTURE. AVAILABLE AT HTTPS://OEFDATASCIENCE.GITHUB.IO/REIGN.GITHUB.IO/

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 18, 1974

Compulsory deposit by all earning over Rs. 15,000

New Delhi, July 17: The ordinance part of the Government's anti-inflationary package, will apply to about six lakh income-tax payers including professionals, businessmen, and houseowners and will not cover those who are not citizens of India.

The ordinance is expected to immobilise Rs. 50 crores in 1974-75 and Rs. 55-60 crores the next year.

The ordinance called the Compulsory Deposits Scheme (income tax payers) Ordinance, 1974, requires that those getting annual incomes above Rs. 15,000 and upto Rs. 25,000 will have to deposit 4 per cent of their aggregate income.

The rate will be 6 per cent for the income slab of Rs. 25,001-Rs. 70,000 and 8 per cent for all incomes above this level.

The amounts deposited will be repaid in five annual instalments at the end of two years-which means the amounts deposited during this year would be fully recoverable by 1982 and in the next year.

The deposits will earn a rate of interest of 8.5 per cent which is the ruling maximum bank deposit rate.

The Ordinance comes close on the heels of the two earlier Ordinances for the impounding of additional dearness allowances and salary increases and dividends. The government will shortly announce procedural and other details as to the manner in which the amounts should be deposited.

The intention is that the deposits will be made with the notified banks.

The Finance Minister Mr. Y. B. Chavan later called on the President and it was understood he emphasised the urgency for promulgating the ordinance.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 18, 1924

Army reserve scheme.

Allahabad, July 17: The pioneer learns that progress is being made with the revised scheme of the Army in India. Reserve of officers and at the moment the authorities are believed to be considering the possibility of giving commissions in the Reserve to selected non-commissioned officers and men of the Auxiliary Force.

From Page One

Karnataka halts Bill as industry raises uproar

Mr. Pai, who also took to X to air his views, called the Bill "discriminatory, regressive, and against the Constitution". He said, "This is a fascist Bill as in *Animal Farm*, unbelievable that @INCIndia can come up with a Bill like this – a govt officer will sit on recruitment committees of private sector? People have to take a language test?"

NASSCOM said it was "disappointed" and "deeply concerned", while the FKCCI said that though it welcomed the aim to provide jobs for the local people, the legislation required greater consultation.

Earlier in the day, following industry responses against it, Mr. Patil and IT and Biotechnology Minister Priyank Kharge had been on the defensive. Mr. Patil promised that a team comprising the Law Minister, the IT and Biotechnology Minister, the Labour Minister, and he would discuss the issue with the Chief Minister before passing the Bill. "There is no doubt that protecting the interests of Kannadigas is of paramount importance. However, industries also need to thrive. It should be a win-win situation for both.," he said.

'Cattle transporters died after fall from bridge'

Their truck, carrying buffaloes, was parked on the bridge.

The police findings contradict the allegations made by Shoaib, a relative of Chand and Qureshi, who said the three were assaulted by a mob. He made the claim based on a phone conversation with Qureshi on the night of the incident.

Shoaib's statement formed the basis of the FIR, initially registered as an attempt to murder on Qureshi, but later changed to culpable homicide, as in the case of the other two deceased. Shoaib has said that he heard Qureshi's cries for help over a phone call made at the time of the incident. He alleged that the Raipur police had not thoroughly investigated the case.

But Mr. Rathore said the police "have not found any evidential value in the claim of an assault on the trio". "According to our investigations, five men in two cars chased the truck carrying the victims and punctured its tyres. The trio then disembarked from the vehicle and jumped off the bridge, sustaining injuries," he said.

The police said Harsh Mishra, 24, Raja Agrawal, 24, Mayank Sharma, 26, Navin Singh Thakur, 28, and Tanay Luniya, 40, have been arrested.

According to the chargesheet, the five accused, on the lookout for alleged cow smuggling, were waiting in three cars. Upon spotting the truck heading towards Tumgaon, they initiated a pursuit. They threw a spike strip to flatten the truck's tyres and threw stones at the vehicle breaking its windscreen. The truck driver was forced to drive on the wrong side of the road for 14 km, with the accused continuing to chase and throwing nails and stones.

The chargesheet said the victims, fearing for their lives, stopped the truck on a bridge and jumped off.

The accused chased the victims for nearly 53 km and engaged in actions that they knew could lead to fatal consequences.

UAPA case booked for pro-Palestine slogans in J&K

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

A case under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) was lodged by the J&K Police against Shia mourners who allegedly raised pro-Palestine and anti-Israel slogans during a Muharram procession in Srinagar two days ago. The move has been condemned by several regional leaders.

"All arrangements were made to ensure safe and secure Muharram processions for Shia mourners. It's a condition on part of the organisers, too, to cooperate. However, some mischievous elements violated [the rules]. Police action has been initiated and an investigation is under way," Inspector General of Police Vidhi Kumar Birdi said.

A case under Sections of the UAPA has been lodged at the Kothi Bagh Police Station in Srinagar against "unknown persons who attended the 8th Muharram procession" at Lal Chowk. Scores of mourners were seen carrying Palestine flags during the procession.

Twelve Naxals killed during gunfight with police in Gadchiroli

One sub-inspector and one jawan sustained bullet injuries during the encounter; three AK-47 rifles, two INSAS rifles, one carbine recovered

Abhinay Deshpande
MUMBAI

Twelve Naxalites, including women, from the Tipagad and Chandgaon Kasansur *Dalams* were killed in a gunfight with security forces in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra on Wednesday, the police said.

The operation, launched around 10 a.m., continued past sunset, and involved seven C60 commando units of the State police, targeting a Maoist camp near Wandoli village, close to the Chhattisgarh border.

The operation was based on credible intelligence indicating the presence of 12 to 15 Naxals, Neelotpal, Superintendent of Police, Gadchiroli, told *The Hindu*.

"The bodies of 12 Maoists have been recovered," he said.

He said that one of the deceased Maoists had been identified as DVCM Laxman Atram, also known as Vishal Atram, who oversaw the Tipagad *Dalam*. He was responsible for north Gadchiroli division. The others are being identified.

An injured policeman being shifted by helicopter after the encounter with Naxals in Gadchiroli on Wednesday. PTI

"During the exchange of fire, one sub-inspector of a C60 unit and one jawan sustained bullet injuries. Both are out of danger and have been evacuated to Nagpur for further medical treatment," he said.

Among the recovered items were seven automatic weapons: three AK-47 rifles, two INSAS rifles, one carbine, and one self-loading rifle.

Deputy Chief Minister and Gadchiroli Guardian Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced a cash reward of ₹51 lakh for the C60 commandos and district police.

Three 'extremists' killed in encounter in Assam district

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Police personnel display the arms recovered after an encounter in Cachar district. PTI

Three alleged extremists belonging to a tribe-specific outfit were killed in an encounter with Assam police personnel in Cachar district of southern Assam late on Tuesday night.

The district police claimed the three Hmar extremists – two from Assam and one from Manipur – were part of a group engaged in drug trafficking and were operating out of the jungles of the Bhuban Hills, about 15 km from where they were caught carrying arms in an autorickshaw.

The spot where the three-wheeler was intercepted falls in the Kachudaram police station limits. The hills are close to the Assam-Mizoram boundary.

"We launched a special operation, taking the three militants along to reach the place where seven or eight members of the group were hiding. The militants opened fire when we reached the foothills," Numal Mahatta, Superintendent of Police, said.

The three extremists and two policemen sustained bullet wounds during the exchange of fire that lasted for about an hour, Mr. Mahatta said.

The three were later declared dead in the hospital while the policemen survived.

Confirming the development on Wednesday, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on X (formerly Twitter), "In an early morning operation, the Cachar Police killed three Hmar militants from Assam and neighbouring Manipur. Police also recovered two AK series rifles, one other rifle, and 1 pistol."

Nine of 13 crew members of capsized oil tanker rescued by Navy off Oman coast

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Indian Navy's mission-deployed warship *INS Teg*, assisting in a search-and-rescue (SAR) operation after the Comoros-flagged oil tanker *MV Prestige Falcon* capsized off the Oman coast, rescued nine crew members – eight Indians and one Sri Lankan, the Navy said late on Wednesday.

The tanker has a 16-member crew – 13 Indians and three Sri Lankans.

The vessel had capsized about 25 nautical miles southeast of Ras Madrakah in Oman on July 15 and rescue efforts in coordination with Oman authorities have been in progress since the morning of July 16.

The warship *INS Teg* engaging in a search for a capsized oil tanker off the Oman coast on Wednesday. X @INDIANNAVY

The efforts by Indian and Omani assets are being undertaken in challenging weather conditions as the area is experiencing rough sea and strong winds, the Navy said on Wednesday.

The Indian Navy's long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft P8I is also assisting in the search for survivors.

"Stealth frigate *INS Teg* deployed in the region and undergoing Operational Turnround (OTR), was sailed at short notice to render SAR assistance. SAR efforts are progressing in coordination with Omani authorities and assets, in rough seas and strong winds," a defence source said on Wednesday.

"Indian Navy's P8I is also assisting in search for survivors."

Another source said that the vessel transmitted a distress call around 10 p.m. on July 14 off the coast of Oman. According to marine traffic portals, the vessel departed the Al Hamriyah port in the UAE on July 9 and was headed to the Aden port in Yemen and was scheduled to arrive there on July 18.

Indian naval ships on deployment in the Gulf of Aden and the region regularly visit Oman ports for OTR, and P-8I long range maritime patrol aircraft have also been visiting Oman for the purpose, extending their reach and endurance.

Anguish in Congress-led Opposition bloc in Assam

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Congress's decision to contest the byelections in in Assam has annoyed other constituents of the Opposition bloc.

The Congress-led United Opposition Forum Assam has 16 members. Three others, All India United Democratic Front, Bodoland People's Front, and Janata Dal (United), left the bloc after the 2021 election. "If Congress contests the upcoming byelections alone, it will be a historic mistake," Raijor Dal president, Akhil Gogoi said.

Indian Railways relaxes rules of 'Make-in-India' to procure walkie-talkie sets

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

Amid an acute shortage of walkie-talkie sets, which are essential for crews operating passenger and goods trains, the Indian Railways have relaxed the "Make-in-India" norms to procure the Very High Frequency (VHF) communication system from the global market.

The move assumes significance against the backdrop of the preliminary investigation report of the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety, Janak Kumar Garg, who probed the tragic Kanchanjunga train crash in Darjeeling district of West Bengal on June 17, that left 10 people dead and many injured.

Mr. Garg noted that there was a heavy shortage of walkie-talkie sets in Katihar Division of Northeast Frontier Railway. While the total requirement of the VHF gadgets in the division was 732, only 303 were available, including some in inoperative condition. The loco pilot and train manager (Guard) of the goods train that rammed the rear of Kanchanjunga Express were not given walkie-talkie sets. The crews of 137 goods trains were working without wireless communication systems during the period June 12-17, he said.

Engineers inspect the accident site of Kanchanjunga Express at Rangapani on June 18. AFP

Though the issue of shortage or malfunctioning of walkie-talkie sets has been faced in the recent months, the gadgets could not be procured as quality products meeting the required specifications were not available with local manufacturers. With the facility not being available, the loco pilots and train managers were communicating over mobile phones which was against the rules.

"The walkie-talkie sets supplied with the approval of the Research Design and Standards Organisation are not working properly thereby defeating the purpose of providing them to the crew. Wireless communication involving the Station Master, Loco Pilot and Train Manager is very important in the operation of trains, especially during signal failures. The only option is to procure good quality wireless communication systems from the global market, which the Railways have approved now," a senior railway officer told *The Hindu*.

In a recent order to General Managers of all zones, the Railway Board said wireless communication was crucial for train operations and non-availability of VHF sets was a "serious safety concern". Instructions were given to provide fully charged 5 Watt walkie-talkie sets with a spare battery to the crew across the railway network. However, the advisory could not be implemented due to the shortage of the equipment, the officer said.

Poll victory and good image do not absolve people of crimes: SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has held in a judgment that electoral wins and good public image do not absolve people of criminal prosecution, while belling the cat on the "alarming trend" of influential figures creating significant delays and even obstructing the administration of justice.

A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Satish Chandra Charma was dealing with a case involving the withdrawal of prosecution against a former Uttar Pradesh MLA in a double murder case pending trial for over three decades.

"Merely because an accused person is elected to the Legislative Assembly cannot be a testament to their image among the general public. Matters of a gruesome crime akin to the double murder in the present case do not warrant withdrawal of prosecution merely on the ground of good public image of an accused named in the chargesheet after thorough investigation," Justice Nath observed in the July 15 verdict.

The accused, Chhote Singh, was elected as Member of the Legislative Assembly from the ruling party in Uttar Pradesh in 2007.

The apex court said the criminal charges against Mr. Singh seem to have been wiped out for no reason other than his poll victory.

Justice Nath faulted the trial judge's reasoning that his electoral victory was a sign of his excellent image among the people. The trial court had concluded that public had shown its trust in Mr. Singh by electing him to the Legislative Assembly.

Taking a contrary view, Justice Nath said the withdrawal of charges against Mr. Singh in the gruesome case should not be allowed in the public's own interest.

Justice Nath noted how the trial against the remaining nine accused in the case remained frozen over the years. The court said the case was redolent of the "lamentable spectre of political influence" skewing legal proceedings.

IIT-Delhi expert faults IIT-M finding of 'no abnormality' in award of NEET ranks

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Petitioners will submit Assistant Professor's report as a counter to the IIT-Madras report

An Assistant Professor at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-D) has described as flawed the IIT-Madras report submitted to the Supreme Court at the behest of the National Testing Agency (NTA) on the National Eligibility-Cum-Entrance Test (NEET-UG) paper leak issue which claims that there were "no abnormalities" in the way marks and ranks were distributed for 23 lakh students who appeared for the exam.

The IIT-Madras report had analysed data of students who appeared versus their score at the national level for two years – 2023 and 2024 – and stated that it showed a bell curve. It also stated that the distribution of marks is "quite normal", on comparing two years of data.

The bell curve plotted by the IIT-Madras team was analysed by Vishal Vaibhav, Assistant Professor, Optics and Photonics Centre, IIT-D, for the petitioners in the NEET case. Dr. Vaibhav's report on this will be submitted to the Supreme Court for the Thursday hearing. The lead petitioners who have taken on the NTA for alleged irregularities in NEET are Vanshika Yadav and Shivangi Mishra.

A copy of Dr. Vaibhav's report, accessed by *The Hindu*, states that this test proposed by the IIT-M team does not qualify as a valid statistical test. "The recipe proposed by the IIT-M team does not rise up to the level of a statistical test because it lacks in the requisite specificity to aid decision making," it says.

From the bell curve graph submitted in court, Dr. Vaibhav could extract raw data accounting for approximately eight lakh students. "On plotting this data on a linear curve for 2023 and 2024, there were no major abnormalities seen as submitted by the IIT-M, but when we plot it on logarithmic scale, which is like using a magnifying glass to see the data comparison, large gaps are picked up at extreme ends of the curve. On the extreme right end, we find more students scoring higher scores in 2024 as compared with 2023. It is evident that a logarithmic plot is better suited to visualise rank inflation, the one that IIT-M has not used. The current method used by the IIT-M lacks specificity to pick up anomalies and is pseudo-scientific," Dr. Vaibhav said.

The petitioners have alleged that it was suspected that anywhere between 30,000 to 40,000 students have been 'force fitted,' as gaining higher scores, leading to them getting better ranks and lowering prospects of deserving candidates getting MBBS seats.

Dr. Vaibhav stated the current algorithm used by the IIT-M to draw conclusions that there were "no abnormalities," were flawed. Petitioners will present the report as a counter to the IIT-M report submitted to the SC.

Main accused in the murder of Mukesh Sahani's father held

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Kazim Ansari

Kazim Ansari, 40, main accused in the murder of former Bihar Minister Mukesh Sahani's father Jitan Sahani, was arrested on Wednesday by a special investigation team (SIT). Jitan, 70 was found murdered in his house at Jirat village in Darbhanga district of Bihar on Tuesday.

Kazim is a resident of Supaul Bazaar in the Ghanshyampur police station limits in Darbhanga. He used to run a clothes shop, which had been closed for a long time as he ran out of funds, and is currently unemployed.

Jagunath Reddy, Senior Superintendent of Police, Darbhanga, said Kazim had taken a loan of ₹1.5 lakh in three instalments from Jitan at a monthly interest rate of 4% by mortgaging his land. In his confessional statement, he said he was not able to repay the money.

On July 12, Kazim and one of his associates, Mohammad Sitara, alias Chhedi, went to talk to the deceased to settle the loan by reducing the interest amount and return the land papers, and there was an altercation between the two parties. Sitara and Pramod Sahani, nephew of the deceased, had confirmed this, he said.

Later, Kazim, along with some of his associates, hatched a plan to forcibly snatch the papers of his loan from Jitan.

On the night of the incident, he did a surveillance of the house between 10 p.m. and 11 p.m., which is confirmed by CCTV footage. After ensuring that only Jitan remained in the house, Kazim and his associates entered it through the back door around 1.30 a.m.

The accused woke up Jitan and asked him to return his land and loan papers. However, Jitan started abusing them. Kazim got angry and stabbed him with a knife several times.

After the murder, the accused threw an almirah into a pond behind the house, as they could not find the keys, and fled the spot.

CM, deputy spar; BJP a divided house in U.P.

Central leadership hears out Maurya camp but has ruled out any change as Assembly byelections are due in August; Adityanath loyalists say CM was sidelined during the Lok Sabha campaign

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Warm welcome: Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya with Union Minister J.P. Nadda in Lucknow. ANI

Knives are out in the Uttar Pradesh unit of the BJP in the aftermath of the party's below-par performance in the Lok Sabha election, with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath blaming overconfidence for the poor results, while his deputy Keshav Prasad Maurya reminding him that the party organisation is the force behind the government and not vice versa.

The statements, made at the BJP's State executive meeting on Sunday, have pitched the two leaders in opposite camps, with Mr. Maurya getting much backing from Delhi.

BJP president J.P. Nadda, State BJP chief Bhupendra Chaudhary and Mr. Maurya had a long meeting on Tuesday night. Sources present at the meeting said the two State leaders complained about the working of the Chief Minister, saying he depended more on officials than party leaders, including MLAs, and workers. This alienation of the local BJP workers from the government and the high-handed attitude of the local administration had cost the party many seats, they said.

CM given a free hand

The national leadership, sources said, heard out the leaders patiently, but pointed out that byelections to 10 Assembly seats were due in August and no changes were to be contemplated in the run-up. Sources said following Mr. Adityanath's statements on overconfidence and refielding of unpopular candidates, aimed at the national leadership which helmed the Lok Sabha election campaign, the Chief Minister would be given a free hand in these polls, to see what he could come up with.

Among the topics discussed was the alienation of Rajput voters who took umbrage at what they termed the sidelining of Mr. Adityanath from the campaign and decisions on seats.

Union Minister Anupriya Patel recently set off a controversy, writing to Yogi Adityanath on the State government's tardiness in filling the OBC quota in government jobs. Ms. Patel represents the Kurmi community, which has a sizeable presence in the State and has been part of the BJP's alliance of non-Yadav OBCs in several elections. Sanjay Nishad, a Minister in the Adityanath government who belongs to the backward Nishad community, said the administration's overbearing behaviour had alienated the poor and backward. "If we uproot the poor, he will uproot us in the polls," Mr. Nishad said, taking a jibe at the State government for frequently deploying the "bulldozer" strategy of demolishing building as collective punishment for crimes.

This has created a Rajput vs OBC twist to the face-off between Mr. Adityanath and Mr. Maurya. Mr. Adityanath's supporters are no pushovers, however, and have been reiterating that the complacency of the BJP and running the whole election from Delhi, while sidelining a popular Chief Minister, had a cost to it. "Did *Baba* [Yogi Adityanath] decide ticket," asks one pro-CM MLA.

The breather the byelection offers is clearly not going to end the division in the BJP in India's most politically significant State, with each side consolidating its base and unwilling to cede an inch.

Amid rise in attacks, 12 militant groups are active in Jammu

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Security personnel near the site of a recent encounter with terrorists at Desa village.

Over 12 militant groups, operating in twos and threes, are suspected to be active in the Pir Panjal Valley and Chenab Valley of the Jammu region, which is in the throes of renewed militant activities over the past month, leaving 24 people dead.

Official sources told *The Hindu* that the security apparatus tracking militant movement had intercepted 16 to 19 signals emanating from different pockets of the region following the attack in Reasi on June 9, which left nine pilgrims dead and over 33 injured.

Authorities said offline mobile applications, which have locations pre-fed on it, and Virtual Private Network (VPN) applications "gave an edge to these hiding militants", who navigate the tough undulating topography and dense jungles with technical support. "These applications could work in the absence of Internet services," another police official said.

The use of YSMS technology, which is hard to trace, and SIM-less phone activation, with militants activating Bluetooth technology to connect with another group and across the Line of Control (LoC), has made it hard for the security forces to develop virtual intelligence on movement of militants, sources said.

Anand Jain, Additional Director-General of Police of the Jammu zone, had suspected the involvement of "six or seven groups in the Jammu region" on June 27.

However, the people living in the upper reaches of the twin valleys have reported increased sightings of militants, especially in Doda, which has by and large remained a militancy-free zone since 2005, police officials said.

In the past 38 days, starting June 9, at least 10 face-offs were witnessed between militants and security forces in the Jammu division, mostly in Doda district. A total of 24 casualties were reported.

'Restraining order against Mamata will be challenged'

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

After the Calcutta High Court restrained West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee from making any defamatory statements against Governor C.V. Ananda Bose, the lawyer representing the Chief Minister said that she has a right to freedom of speech and she was alluding to the apprehensions of numerous women who approached her.

Sanjay Basu, the lawyer representing the Chief Minister, said the utterances of Ms. Banerjee to the extent they represent rejection of injustice and gender asymmetry, cannot be restrained and the "order of the Hon'ble Court will be challenged".

Drop *Sabka Saath* slogan as Muslims did not vote for BJP, says Suvendu

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly Suvendu Adhikari with Union Minister Manohar Lal in Kolkata. ANI

Claiming that Muslims of West Bengal did not vote for the Bharatiya Janata Party in the recently concluded Lok Sabha election, the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, on Wednesday stirred a hornets' nest by calling for putting an end to the BJP's slogan of *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas*.

"Stop *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas*. No need for minority *morcha* [of the BJP]," the party leader said at an event to take stock of its performance in the Lok Sabha election.

The remarks have triggered a controversy with senior party leaders including BJP State president Sukanta Majumdar trying a course correction.

The slogan *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas* was coined by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014. In the recently concluded Lok Sabha election, the BJP won only 12 seats in West Bengal, whereas the Trinamool Congress bagged 29. The BJP's performance was considered a setback as the party had won 18 Lok Sabha seats in the 2019 election. The party's vote share stood around 38%, whereas Trinamool secured about 46%.

Speaking to presspersons, the Leader of the Opposition said only Hindus had voted for the BJP in the Lok Sabha election, and alleged that local imams and muezzins had threatened Muslims against voting for the BJP candidates.

"In the 2021 Assembly elections, 91% Muslims voted for Mamata Banerjee and in 2024, 95% Muslims voted for Trinamool," the Nandigram MLA said.

The State BJP leadership held a press conference to clarify his remarks.

"The BJP does not indulge in any politics over any particular community. We are for the welfare of all 140 crore Indians," State BJP spokesperson Shamik Bhattacharya said. The BJP wants the support of "nationalist Muslims" and it does not matter if they do not vote for the party.

Mr. Adhikari was also quick to clarify his remarks saying that comments reflected a political reality and were not aimed at the government schemes under Mr. Modi.

Ahead of Tripura panchayat polls, BJP trying to eliminate Opposition, alleges CPI(M)

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Leaders pay last respects to CPI(M) candidate Badal Shil, who was murdered.

The CPI(M) Polit Bureau on Wednesday issued a strongly worded statement condemning the incidents of political violence ahead of the August 8 panchayat elections in Tripura.

The party accused the BJP of "creating an atmosphere of terror", and said the BJP has been "single-mindedly" pursuing the agenda of annihilating the Opposition in the State.

The Polit Bureau has demanded that adequate measures should be taken to ensure that all candidates are able to file nominations and the elections are held in a free and fair manner. The party said the CPI(M) workers have been under relentless attack from the BJP since the day the panchayat elections were announced.

"Candidates of the CPI (M) have been forcibly prevented from filing their nominations by resorting to savage assaults against them and their supporters," the Polit Bureau said.

On July 13, Badal Shil, a CPI(M) candidate for South Tripura Zilla Parishad, was killed. The CPI(M) has blamed the BJP for the murder. The party said the Opposition leaders are forcibly prevented from participating in all-party meetings called by election officials.

The party said BJP leaders have threatened to kill any Opposition candidate trying to submit nominations. Vehicles of Opposition leaders have been attacked in the presence of the police. Prominent leaders of the party have been waylaid. There have been incidents of stone-throwing on CPI(M) processions, and bombs have been thrown on the residences of CPI(M) leaders, it said.

Sharad gives a jolt to Ajit faction as several leaders join NCP(SP)

The Hindu Bureau
PUNE

Sharad Pawar

In a jolt to the ruling Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) led by Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly election, more than 20 of its leaders and office-bearers from Pimpri-Chinchwad joined the NCP(SP) led by Sharad Pawar on July 17.

Chief among those switching sides was Ajit Gavhane, the NCP's Pimpri-Chinchwad president who was being touted as a dynamic face of the Ajit Pawar-led NCP in the cash-rich township ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly election.

Mr. Gavhane, who submitted his resignation to NCP State chief Sunil Tatkare on July 16, is now being projected as a possible candidate of the NCP(SP) from the Bhosari Assembly constituency.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Gavhane along with more than 20 former corporators and office-bearers of the Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) joined the NCP (SP) in Sharad Pawar's presence in Pune.

Yet, the move was neither surprising nor wholly unexpected as Mr. Gavhane had met with Mr. Sharad Pawar last month itself along with other PCMC leaders from the NCP.

BJP accuses Soren govt. of sheltering 'Bangladeshis'

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Due to infiltration, the demography of Jharkhand has changed, allege Shivraj and Himanta

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday slammed the Hemant Soren government in Jharkhand and accused the Chief Minister of sheltering 'Bangladeshis'.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders, who are overseeing the party's preparations for the Jharkhand election scheduled later this year, alleged that due to infiltration, the demography of Jharkhand had changed.

Both leaders are making frequent visits to Jharkhand keeping the Assembly election in mind. The BJP has become aggressive on Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and Congress in the State.

Mr. Chouhan slammed the JMM and the Congress alleging that the coalition government has left no stone unturned to "ruin Jharkhand".

"This government has given protection to Bangladeshi infiltrators due to which the demography of the State has been badly affected. If this government returns to power, then it is certain that the original residents of this State will become a minority in the coming days," Mr. Chouhan said after attending the 'Abhinandan Sah Vijay Sankalp Sabha' at Hatia in Ranchi. He added that Mr. Soren has not fulfilled his electoral promises.

TAMIL NADU TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

S. No	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No	Total
1	CE / C / Transmission	T.58, T.59	2
2	CE / TP-II / Trichy	C-03/2024-25, E-02/2024-25	2
3	SE / Transmission-II	T.2307, T.2308	2

For details of Works / Procurement / Due date of submission / opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: **www.tantransco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**
DIPR/2378/Tender/2024

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि. वृत हनुमानगढ़
क्रमांकः- 271 दिनांकः- 10/07/2024
ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 03/2024-25
इच्छुक निविदादाताओं से सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत्त हनुमानगढ़ के अधीन एक सड़क निर्माण कार्य (मय पांच वर्ष के दोष निवारण व सुधार अवधि) हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदायें दिनांक 06.08.2024 सायं 6.00 बजे तक आमन्त्रित की जाती है। उक्त निविदा से सम्बन्धित पूर्ण विवरण राज्य सरकार के प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** व विभागीय वेबसाईट **http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in** पर देखे जा सकते हैं।
कार्य का एन.आई.बी. नं.:- PWD2425A0664, यू.बी.एन नं.:- PWD2425WSOB02477
DIPR/C/5960/2024 अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि वृत हनुमानगढ़

ANDHRA PRADESH STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
Head Office: 10-152/1, Ashok Nagar, Bandar Road, Kanuru,Vijayawada-520007
NATIONAL SHORT TENDER NOTICE (3rd call)
Tender No: PDS 1/35/Sugar Tender/July,24 to Sep,24 Date: 17.07.2024
BIDS ARE INVITED FROM ELIGIBLE BIDDERS FOR SUPPLY OF SUGAR TO ALL THE MLS POINTS OF FIVE(05) DISTRICTS IN ANDHRA PRADESH STATE THROUGH AP E-PROCUREMENT.
Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd invites bids from eligible bidders for supply of 3659.089 MTs of ISS Grade S-30/S-31 cane sugar in 1/2 Kg packet form with secondary packing in 50 Kg new polypropylene (PP) bags under PDS for the months of July,2024 to September,2024 to all the MLS Points of (05) districts of Zone-II in Andhra Pradesh State.
All the interested Sugar Manufacturers/Traders in All Over India may visit **www.apscscl.in & www.apeprocurement.gov.in** to view and download tender documents free of cost.
Interested tenderers to submit bids should be registered in website **www.apeprocurement.gov.in** and should also obtain Digital Signature Certificates from any Certifying Authority in India. The details and procedure for obtaining Digital Signature Certificates are mentioned in the website **www.apeprocurement.gov.in** or contact the helpdesk of procurement portal **Phone: 9154383633/9154383634/7337318402.**
Last date for registration and completion of formalities for the e-auction shall be up to **25.07.2024 at 5 p.m** and the tentative date of online e-reverse auction through ap e-procurement platform would be **27.07.2024 at 2.00 pm** onwards
Sd/- VC & Managing Director

TAMILNADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION
Head Office: Poonamallee High Road, Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) Admin Building, Koyambedu, Chennai-600 107
Ph.No. (044) 26426773 Email ID . : tncsc.tn@nic.in
CIN:U15137TN1972SGC006157
SHORT E-TENDER NOTICE
BS6/026284/2024 Date:17.07.2024
Short E-Tender No: BS6/026284/2024- TNCSC/24-25
Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation invites Online electronic tender for the Purchase of **"40,000 Metric Tonnes of Tur dal (Split- Husked & Fatka) [Indigenous]/Tur Dal (Split Husked-Imported)/ Lentil locally known as Canadian Yellow Lentil (Split – Husked & Laired No.2) / Lentil locally known as Canadian Yellow Lentil (Whole – Husked & Laired No.2) as per AGMARK specifications"**
Complete short e-tender document can be viewed and downloaded from **https:tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**
The bidders have to participate online bidding only with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III
Last Date and Time for Online Submission: **27.07.2024 up to 11.00 A.M.**
DIPR/2421/Tender/2024 **Managing Director**

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Unit - 1 : Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist.
Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04324 - 277001 (10 Lines)
Unit - 2 : Mondipatti - 621 306, Trichy District,
Tamil Nadu, Ph.: 04332 - 261600
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Scope of Work	Due date
232413 002168	Procurement of High Pressure Pump for Tube Cleaning **TNPL will follow Two Bid system and E-Tender cum Auction.**	05.08.2024
232413 002174	Procurement of Support Roller and Bearing for Lime Kiln #2 **TNPL will follow Two Bid system and E-Tender cum Auction.**	05.08.2024
242513 002184	Procurement of Sulphuric Acid for Unit - I and Unit - II	01.08.2024
242513 002188	Procurement of Sulphur Di Oxide for Unit - I and Unit - II	02.08.2024
242523 001162	Procurement of Tyre Mounted Hydraulic Mobile Crane of Capacity 14 - 15 Tons Pick & Carry for TNPL Unit - II.	02.08.2024
Email	232413002168 , 2174 - purchase.engg@tnpl.co.in 242513002184 , 2188 - purchase.rawmatl@tnpl.co.in 242523001162 - purchase.u2@tnpl.co.in	

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed requirements, Period, Terms & conditions, Tender fee, EMD etc., are available in the tender document at our websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**
DIPR/2416/Tender/2024 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

INBRIEF

Haryana announces quota for Agniveers in select govt. jobs

As the Agnipath scheme continues to be at the centre stage of electoral politics, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Wednesday announced that 10% reservation has been assigned in police, mining guard, and forest guard jobs among others for Agniveers in the State. The Congress hit out at the ruling BJP government and demanded that the recruitment scheme be immediately abolished. The announcements have come ahead of the Assembly election due in a few months.

First confirmed death due to Chandipura virus in Gujarat

The National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Pune on Wednesday confirmed the first fatality of a four-year-old girl who had contracted Chandipura virus in Gujarat while the death toll of suspected cases has gone up to 15 as the virus as spread in almost a dozen districts of the State. As per the Health department's figures, 29 suspected cases have been reported from Gujarat so far. Health department officials and doctors in government hospitals believe that the cases would surge in the days to come as the virus has spread even in cities like Ahmedabad where one child died on Wednesday.

10 Indian dogs in Paris to guard Olympics

The contingent comprises six Belgian Shepherds, three German Shepherds, and one Labrador Retriever and 17 handlers; this is the first time that canines from India will perform such duties abroad; 1,750 security personnel from 40 countries will be present as reinforcements during the Games

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Ten police dogs, along with 17 handlers, from India are in Paris to provide security for the Olympics at the request of the French Mission in India.

This is the first time an Indian K9 contingent will perform such duties abroad, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated.

The contingent comprises six Belgian Shepherds, three German Shepherds, and one Labrador Retriever.

"Proud to meet 10-member K-9 unit from India, for a month in Paris to support French security for Paris Olympics 2024. Our K-9 stars & handlers doing well after travel from India; quickly on the job for French National Day. Got a nice handshake, too! One example of Indo-French security cooperation!" Indian envoy in Paris Jawed Ashraf said on social media.

While the number of K9 teams from various countries at the Olympics was not available, it has been learnt that approximately 1,750 security personnel from nearly 40 partner countries will be present as reinforcements for security during the Olympics.

Indian mission: Two CAPF dogs with their handlers in front of the Eiffel Tower. ANI

Embassy request

The Embassy of France in India has requested the Government of India to provide an anti-explosive unit, specifically dogs, along with their handlers, from July 11 to August 12 to enhance security measures for the Olympics and Paralympic Games, the External Publicity & Public Diplomacy wing of the MEA said in response to a query from *The Hindu*.

The 10 dogs and 17 personnel from various Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), including the Central Reserve Police Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Sashastra Seema Bal, Assam Rifles and National Security Guard, have been designated for the mission.

Noting that these dogs demonstrated their capabilities during the G-20 Summit held in India in 2023, earning widespread recognition, the Ministry wing said: "This marks the first time an Indian K9 contingent will perform such duties abroad. The contingent is committed to executing its duties with the utmost care, recognising the significance of their mission on the international stage and ensuring no detail is overlooked to achieve mission success."

The opening ceremony of the Paris Olympics on July 26 will be bold, original and unique, French envoy in India Thierry Mathou said last week.

By the Seine

"For the first time in the history of the Olympic Summer Games, this ceremony will not take place within a stadium, but out in the city itself, along the main artery of Paris: the Seine river, a symbol of our eagerness to reach out to all," the diplomat said at a reception on July 12 on the occasion of French National Day.

The envoy said that to illustrate the values France wanted to promote internationally, not only innovation, but also sustainability, solidarity and equality, the President of the French Republic and the President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) would co-chair a summit on the eve of the opening ceremony to highlight the contribution of sports to Sustainable Development Goals with the objective of launching a global "sport and sustainable development" initiative across five areas: education and employment, health and nutrition, equality and inclusion, sustainability and legacy, and financing.

"This Summit will host some 500 participants, including heads of state and government, leaders of international organisations, athletes and representatives of the sports movement, as well as development finance institutions, and will be supported by the French Development Agency Group, which has been strongly committed to these issues, including in India," Mr. Mathou said.

"Recognising the importance of strengthening sports cooperation, we are determined to boost youth exchanges and ties between economic actors of the sports industry," the envoy said.

"In this context, France will be more than happy to share its experience of hosting the Olympics and Paralympics in view of India's bid to host the Games in 2036."

Ahead of Budget, Union govt. eases procurement rules for scientific research goods

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

This comes after scientists had for years said that rules are restrictive on buying research equipment

Ahead of the presentation of the Union Budget, the Finance Ministry has announced changes that will provide greater flexibility to scientific Ministries to import and buy equipment necessary for research.

These changes, in the General Finance Rules (GFR), follow demands made for years by scientists who have often said that restrictive rules on the purchase of research equipment had slackened the pace of research productivity.

The GFR, which are prescribed by the Finance Ministry, define the conditions under which public procurement is conducted, and they are periodically updated. The new exemptions are specific to the "scientific Ministries", and apply to the departments of Science and Technology, Biotechnology, Scientific and Industrial Research, Atomic Energy and Space, the Earth Sciences Ministry, the Defence Research and Development Organisation, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, the Department of Health Research, including the Indian Council of Medical Research, and institutions conducting postgraduate research affiliated to Ministries.

The first of the changes are in raising the threshold price of goods that may be bought without going through a tendering process. Until May 20, when the relaxations came into effect, the threshold was ₹25,000. It has now been raised to ₹1 lakh.

The second is that for goods priced between ₹25,000 and ₹2.5 lakh, a purchase committee consisting of three members nominated by the Head of the Department must survey the market to establish that it offers the most value for money and quality. That limit has now been raised from ₹1 lakh to ₹10 lakh.

However, there is a catch most scientists are not quite happy with, as these relaxations are only applicable once it is established that the required goods are unavailable on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM). The GeM is a government-mandated website, which lists sellers of Indian-made or assembled goods, and is administered by the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Ministry. A grouse against GeM is that they often need extremely customised equipment which often has to be imported.

States cannot tinker with the Scheduled Castes List, says SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has held that the States cannot tinker with the Scheduled Castes List notified under Article 341 of the Constitution.

"Any inclusion or exclusion of any caste, race or tribe or part of or group within the castes, races or tribes has to be, by law, made by the Parliament, and not by any other mode or manner," a Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and P.K. Mishra said while clarifying on the law.

The judgment by the top court came in a challenge by Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Vichar Manch, Patna, to a July 1, 2015 notification issued by the Bihar government, on the basis of the recommendation of the State Backward Classes Commission to merge the Extremely Backward Class (EBC) of Tanti-Tantwa with the Scheduled Caste of Pan/Sawasi in the Scheduled Castes List. The merger would enable the Tanti-Tantwa to claim the benefits of Scheduled Castes.

Justice Nath, who authored the judgment, pronounced the 2015 resolution as "patently illegal and erroneous".

"The State government had no competence/authority/power to tinker with the lists of Scheduled Castes published under Article 341 of the Constitution," Justice Nath concluded in the July 15 verdict.

The court said the State Backward Commission, in the first place, had jurisdiction to recommend the joining of a caste or group with a notified Scheduled Caste community.

"Even if it makes such a recommendation, right or wrong, the State has no authority to proceed to implement the same when it was fully aware that the Constitution does not permit it to do so," Justice Nath observed.

Unacademy, *The Hindu* to host e-summit for UPSC aspirants on July 20, 21

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The e-summit is free of cost to benefit students who can gain insights from the experts

Unacademy, a multinational educational technology company, in association with *The Hindu*, is scheduled to host a two-day "Unacademy e-Summit 2024" for Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) aspirants to inspire and motivate them by providing direct access to influential leaders, policymakers, seasoned bureaucrats and notable personalities.

The online summit, scheduled for July 20 and 21, will give an opportunity for the aspirants to gain insights and advice from those who have excelled in their fields.

Among the distinguished personalities addressing the event are: Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways; Jairam Ramesh, Rajya Sabha member; Sachin Pilot, former Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan; Suhasini Haidar, Diplomatic Affairs Editor, *The Hindu*; Yogendra Yadav, political activist and academician; Shefali Shah, actor; Mahesh Muralidhar Bhagwat, Additional Director-General of Police (Law and Order), Telangana; V.V.S. Laxman, former Indian cricketer; Mary Kom, Indian Olympic medallist; and J. Radhakrishnan, IAS officer and administrator.

"At Unacademy, we are proud to successfully host the UPSC summit for the third consecutive year in partnership with *The Hindu*. This summit will give aspirants complete clarity and guidance for UPSC preparation. Our aim is to equip aspirants with the knowledge and inspiration they need to pursue their dream of becoming an officer and leading the country in the future," said Sumit Jain, co-founder, Unacademy.

The e-summit is free of cost to benefit students. Those who want to register can scan the QR code.

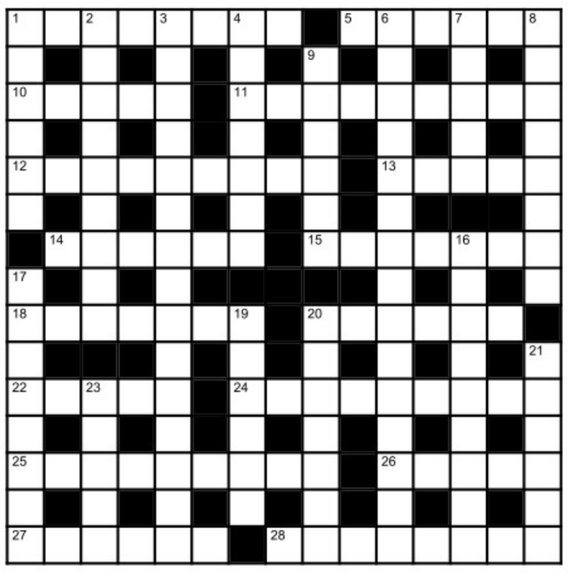
Registration can also be done using the Unacademy app.

TH CROSSWORD + 14230

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Seasoned beef is over, pack salami finally (8)
5 Aroused a woman with love and understanding (6)
10 Icon cavorting with girl is disguised (5)
11 Stretching is essentially necessary before exercise (9)
12 How one lacking a suit might be cold (9)
13 Portable shelter over left bank of raging river (5)
14 One painting portrait of maiden aboard ship (6)
15 Tumour in a node affected mother (7)
18 Lech at exotic model in thong (7)
20 Old king is extremely taut, overwhelmed by pain with onset of arthritis (6)
22 Captivated by promo demonstrating electronic device (5)
24 Clamour about fraud involving American company (9)
25 Rise in oceans is ultimately worrisome (9)
26 Old professor welcoming poets heartily in ancient Greek theatre (5)
27 Tries dancing? Yes, after consuming dope in retreat (6)
28 Fancy mattress for fashionable people (5,3)

Down

1 Dire Straits starting to perform before match (6)
2 Red coat is silk, cut artfully (9)
3 Border caught by Cook! Gone on thirty? That's perfectly accurate (5,2,3,5)
4 Catch wrongly? He is injured in arm perhaps (7)
6 Rapid trip in middle of sea, lots throw up - it's choppy (7-4,4)
7 Chef in kitchen turned to pick up sharp tool (5)
8 Almost beat, having cold drink before bedtime (8)
9 Fine leader of archaeologists tackling corrosion in parts of pyramids (6)
16 Witnesses leader of band going crazy outside toilet (9)
17 Pastry, sandwiches, meat for seaside picnic (8)
19 Computer expert's electronic chart in link (6)
20 Secret in a container hidden by suspect (7)
21 Sound of seal and young swan (6)
23 Escapes with speed, climbing over top of knoll (5)

SUDOKU

				9		7		5
							2	8
				4	8	6	3	
1			8	6		3		
	5		2		7		1	
		3		1	4			6
	3	7	6	8				
8	2							
4		9		2				

No.SS6223 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

C	E	N	T	I	M	E	T	R	E	S				
U		O		N		A		E		H		S		S
P	H	R	A	S	E	S		C	L	O	S	E	S	T
B		T		U		I		E		N		N		A
O	T	H	E	R		E	V	I	D	E	N	T	L	Y
A				A		S		V				R		
R	I	P	E	N		T	R	E	M	B	L	I	N	G
D		E		C						E		E		R
S	E	N	T	E	N	C	E	S		H	A	S	T	E
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S		E		O		M		E		U		R		S
				W	I	N	D	S	C	R	E	E	N	S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	7	8	5	1	3	4	6	9
1	3	9	2	6	4	7	5	8
6	4	5	7	8	9	1	2	3
8	2	3	6	4	7	9	1	5
5	9	7	1	3	8	6	4	2
4	6	1	9	2	5	3	8	7
9	8	2	4	7	6	5	3	1
7	1	6	3	5	2	8	9	4
3	5	4	8	9	1	2	7	6

FAITH

Follow virtuous qualities

To make their lives more purposeful and meaningful, people should follow virtuous qualities such as respecting elders, developing friendship, living a contented life and expressing sympathy. Sri Damodhar Dikshidhar said in a discourse that, unfortunately, even if elders are ill-willed towards us, we should not fail to respect them. On return from his penance, the young child Dhruva prostrated at the feet of his father and stepmother, who were the reason for his going to the forest. He told them he would not have had the rarest opportunity to derive Lord Vishnu's blessings if his desire (to sit on his father's lap) had not been refused. Sri Rama had not uttered a single word when asked to go to the forest but prostrated at the feet of His stepmother Kaikeyi, the most undeserving responsible for His exile.

Men should learn to practice leading a contented life based on what they have. The poor Kusela used to go for *Unchavruthi* every day but would return when the vessel was even half full. Saint Thyagaraja also did the same. When the king of Tanjore offered him a position in the kingdom, the saint refused in spite of his impecunious condition. All beings are God's creations, and we have no right to harm them. Instead, we should show mercy and compassion.

INBRIEF

Anuj Poddar steps down as MD & CEO Bajaj Electricals

Bajaj Electricals Ltd. announced the resignation of Managing Director and CEO Anuj Poddar who would be moving on to pursue an external opportunity, the company said. "The board has accepted his resignation while recognising and acknowledging Mr. Poddar's stellar contributions in formulating the transformation and growth journey of the company over the past five and a half years. His last date with the company shall be 30 September," the company said.

Suzuki Motorcycle rolls out new edition of Avenis scooter

Suzuki Motorcycle India Pvt. Ltd.(SMIPL), the two-wheeler subsidiary of Suzuki Motor Corporation, Japan, announced the latest edition of Suzuki Avenis scooter priced at ₹92,000 (ex-showroom, Delhi). Kenichi Umeda, MD, SMIPL said, "The product has been well received by young Indian riders for its stylish mobility solutions. With its fresh and updated look, it is expected to appeal to GenZ riders who seek both excitement and convenience in daily commute."

Hinduja Tech to acquire Germany's Tecosim Group

Hinduja Tech Ltd. (HT) said it was acquiring Germany-based Tecosim Group via its wholly owned subsidiary HT GmbH for an enterprise value (EV) of €21 million. This strategic acquisition broadens Hinduja Tech's presence in the European and international markets and solidifies its position as a leading provider of mobility engineering services worldwide, the mobility-focused global engineering R&D services company said in a statement.

'Polls hit fresh public capex in Q1'

New investments in manufacturing, infrastructure and mining took a sharp hit in April-June period, survey by Projects Today shows; decline would have been sharper but for private sector commitments that grew 22.5% to ₹4.95 lakh crore

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

The long-drawn general elections, and the Assembly polls in Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh, took a toll on fresh government capex in the first quarter (Q1) of this fiscal year, with new project investments slipping almost 70% to about ₹1.42 lakh crore from ₹4.69 lakh crore a year earlier.

Overall, 2,312 new projects worth ₹6.37 lakh crore were announced, 27.1% lower than the first quarter of 2023-24, when 2,833 new projects with a total investment commitment of almost ₹8.74 lakh crore were announced.

Rough patch: New project announcements from central government agencies slid 76%, Projects Today said. THE HINDU

Manufacturing (-41.6%), infrastructure (-35.4%) and mining (-25.5%) saw steep declines, while irrigation projects grew 37.7% over a small base, with investments worth ₹9,340 crore.

"Fresh investment announcements were severely hampered in the public sector by the elongated general and State election process," said Shashikant Hegde, director and CEO, Projects Today, a firm that has been tracking new and ongoing investment projects in India since 2000. "The decline would have been sharper, but for private sector investment commitments, which grew 22.5% with 1,696 new projects announced worth ₹4.95 lakh crore."

New projects from central government agencies slid 76%, with just 261 projects worth ₹47,061.33 crore announced between April and June, compared with 350 projects of more than ₹2 lakh crore in Q1 FY24, Projects Today said.

With the new government in place and States lining up investments in their Budgets, Mr. Hegde expects a revival in public infrastructure investment.

ADB retains India's FY25 GDP growth outlook at 7%

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's GDP growth is expected to be 7% this year with inflation averaging 4.6%, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said in its Asia Development Outlook July report on Tuesday. The Bank also retained its projections for FY26, reckoning GDP will rise 7.2% and retail price rise will average 4.5% next year.

ADB also left unchanged its 4.5% growth projection for China in 2024, but pared its inflation estimate from 1.1% to 0.5%.

TVS Motor to invest £200 mn in U.K.'s Norton Motorcycles

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

TVS Motor Company (TVSM) is set to invest £200 million in the U.K.-based Norton Motorcycles.

The leading two- and three-wheeler manufacturer also announced the international foray of the iconic British motorcycle brand and plans to introduce six new bikes beginning next year.

TVS Motor, which acquired Norton Motorcycles through its Singapore subsidiary, has committed £200 million across new-product development, facilities, research and development and world-class quality engineering.

Sudarshan Venu

The new Norton motorcycles would follow the company's philosophy of 'Design, Dynamism, and Detail.' The six new models are planned to be unveiled over the next three years.

Focus countries

As part of the international foray, Norton will initially focus on U.S., Germany, France, Italy and India.

At the renowned Goodwood Festival of Speed, TVSM MD Sudarshan Venu announced the appointment of Richard Arnold as Norton Motorcycles ED. Mr. Arnold was the former CEO of Manchester United Football Club. Robert Hentschel will be ED & CEO, Norton Motorcycles.

"The investment in research and development and leadership has us positioned to take six exciting products to countries across the world, with world-class quality and scale, spelling another epoch of success in the Norton story," Mr. Hentschel said in a statement.

Godrej unit mulls ₹400-cr. spending on expansion

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Godrej Storage Solutions (GSS) said it will be setting up a manufacturing unit near Chennai at an investment of ₹350-400 crore spread over the next two to three years.

"Currently, we are operating at 75% of installed capacity of 90,000 tonne of steel per month and it will run out in 18 months time," EVP & Business Head Vikas Choudaha said.

For FY24, GSS reported a revenue of ₹1,000 crore and expects the same to be unchanged for FY25 on softening steel prices.

Wheels India plans ₹225 cr. FY25 capex

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Wheels India Ltd., (WIL) has announced a capex of ₹225 crore for FY25 along with plans to raise output at its aluminium wheel business and machining for large windmill castings.

WIL's TN-based plant will raise its aluminium wheels production from 25,000 wheels to 40,000 a month this year, MD Srivats Ram said.

The auto component maker posted 25% growth in its export business in FY24, driven by exports of earth-mover and aluminium wheels.

The firm has plans to form a European subsidiary to expand its market there. It already has a U.S. incorporated subsidiary.

Srivats Ram

Addressing the 65th Annual General Meeting Chairman S. Ram said the hydraulic cylinder business had grown reasonably and become profitable following the merger of Sundaram Hydraulics Ltd. with WIL in FY24.

'Real estate sector pins hopes on reforms, incentives for growth'

BUDGET IN FOCUS

Sanjay Dutt
MUMBAI

In India's socio-economic landscape, the real estate sector has consistently proven to be a key pillar of strength and growth. As the nation weathered global storms and internal challenges during recent years, this resilient industry stood tall, not merely surviving but thriving.

The sector has been instrumental in driving economic progress, creating jobs, shaping urban development and laying the very foundation of the country's progress.

Robust expansion

Last year, the industry witnessed robust expansion, with the residential property market marking 48% year-on-year growth. Housing sales and new launches surged, with a notable focus on mid and premium segments.

The transactions in the commercial segment also doubled during the year.

As we examine the sector's recent performance and its impact on the broader economy, it becomes clear why real estate demands our attention and support.

It continues to be a driving force behind India's economic growth, actively building the nation's path to prosperity.

Persistent challenges

However, there also lie persistent challenges that continue to hinder the sector's full potential.

Issues such as liquidity constraints, complex regulatory frameworks, and the need for infrastructural upgrades remain at the forefront of industry concerns. The affordable housing segment has seen a slowdown, highlighting the need for targeted policy interventions.

Grey areas: Liquidity constraints and complex regulations are at the forefront of industry concerns. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Realty has been driving economic progress, creating jobs, shaping urban development

As we approach Budget 2024, the industry stakeholders are looking to the government for policy measures that can address industry-specific needs and propel the sector towards sustainable growth.

Even though the government has increased budget allocations for infrastructure upgrades, sustaining this growth requires a few critical steps. From potential tax reforms and infrastructure investments to measures addressing ease of doing business and sustainability, the real estate's wish list is comprehensive.

Let us further understand the industry expectations and how policy reforms could play a crucial role in shaping the trajectory of this vital sector.

Key Expectations

Tax relief: Industry experts are advocating for an increase in the deduction limit for home loan interest under Section 24 of the Income Tax Act, now capped at ₹2 lakh per annum.

Additionally, there are expectations for the reintroduction of a separate section for principal repayment of home loans, which was earlier available under Section 80C but is now clubbed with other investments. Furthermore, Income Tax on rent of residential properties should be waived for three years to promote housing and make returns attractive.

Limiting taxes: From land acquisition and joint development agreements to construction, completion and final sale, the cumulative tax exposure from both Central and State governments can be overwhelming. A key proposal is to implement a defined cap on the total tax burden, ensuring it doesn't exceed 45% to 50%.

Industry status: This could unlock easier access to financing for developers, cut borrowing costs, and attract significant investments in the sector.

Green buildings: With increasing focus on sustainability, the sector is anticipating incentives for green-building practices. This could include tax benefits for developers implementing eco-friendly technologies, subsidies for green-building materials, and incentives for homebuyers opting for certified green homes.

Ease of business: This includes streamlining approval processes, reducing the number of permits required, and potentially introducing a faceless single-window clearance system for real estate projects across the country.

Project support: This could include the expansion of the government's SWAMIH (Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing) investment fund or the introduction of new mechanisms to complete stuck projects, benefiting all stakeholders.

GST rationalisation: The Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime continues to be a point of discussion in the real estate sector. There are hopes for further rationalisation of GST rates, particularly for under-construction properties.

Affordable housing: The Budget should consider reinstating incentives such as the Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY).

Additionally, providing 100% tax holidays for developers could significantly attract more investment into this segment.

(Sanjay Dutt is MD & CEO, TATA Realty & Infrastructure Ltd.)

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PERSONAL

THANKSGIVING

Thank you Infant Jesus for prayers answered and blessings received. Vidya, Krishna & Family

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE XXII ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-7)
O.S. NO. 7173/2022
Hg. 19/08/2024

Between
M/s ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at: Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara-390007, having its head office at and Zonal office at: 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru-560068 And also having branch at M.G. Road, Bengaluru, through its Authorised representative
...Plaintiff

And
Mr. Karthik MS
...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant
Mr. Karthik MS
S/o. Shivananje Gowda,
Aged About 27 Years,
R/at. No 165, 3rd Cross, Veerabhadra Nagar, Hosakerehall, BSK, 3rd Stage, Near Shanimahathma Temple, Bangalore-560085.

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of Rs. 6,98,241.26/- along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the XXII Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H.-7), in person or by a pleader, on the day of 19.08.2024 at 11:00 A.M to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex- Parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 11th day of July, 2024 at Bangalore.

BY ORDER OF THE
Assistant Registrar
Hon'ble City Civil Court
Bengaluru.

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners,
Advocates,
No. 701, Queens
Corner 'A', 3, Queens Road,
Bengaluru -01.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 72nd ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-73)
O.S. NO. 25197/2023

Between
ICICI Bank Limited,
Having its Registered office at Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007 and having its Corporate office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400 051 and its branch office at Mythree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore - 560 068 Represented by its Collection Manager and POA Holder Sri. Pramodh Gurumallappa
...Plaintiff

And
Sri. Ravi Chandra
...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT UNDAR ORDES S, RULE 20 CPC

To,
Sri Ravi Chandra,
S/o Sri Sri Rudrappa
Aged about 36 years,
No 6, 1st Cross, 5t Main, Nanjanba, Agrahara, Chamrajpet,
Bangalore - 560 018

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of Rs. 628601/- (Rupees Six Lakh Twenty Eight Thousand Six Hundred One Only) together with interest @ 24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble 72nd Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH - 73) in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on 30/07/2024 at 11.00 a.m. failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte. Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 04/07/2024.

By Order Of The
Hon'ble Court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court, Mayo hall Unit, Bangalore

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
SA Associates,
No. 10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore - 560 047

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

WE, MOHIT Bagri, S/o Shri Kumar Bagri and Nidhi Damani Bagri, W/o Mohit Bagri both R/o Flat 1304 VRR Fortuna, Janatha Colony, Chikkabellandur, Carmelaram Railway Station, Sarjapur Main Road, Bengaluru-560035, have changed our minor daughter's name from Meera Bagri to Miraya M Bagri vide Affidavit dated 16/07/2024 before Notary K.S.Giridhar, Bengaluru.

THANKSGIVING

"Thank you Infant Jesus for prayers answered and blessings received - Vidya, Krishna & Family"

THANKSGIVING

Thanks for Favours Received
- VJC and Family

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF HON'BLE SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE ; KAVALI
I.A. No. 486/2019
A.S. No. 31/2019

Between : Jinka Chennamma
...Petitioner/Appellant

And : 1. Jinka Kondamma (died)
2. Jinka Rmanaiah, 3. Jinka Kistaiah
4. Yerragolla Dhanalaxmi,
5. Peddeti, Bhagyamma, 6. Jinka Thirupathi
...Respondents

To, Respondent No. 4 :
Yerragolla Dhanalaxmi W/o Murali Mohan Rao, Plot No. 37, Ground Floor, Hemanth Nagar, Anantharal Lay out, Near Hindustan Academy, Marthalli, Bangalore-560 037.

NOTICE

Where as the above named petitioner has made an application under order-22 rule-4 of C.P.C as you are the legal heir of deceased Jinka Kondamma to this court that your intentionally avoiding to receive the court notices and so the petitioner take steps against you for appearance objection if any.
You are here by warned to appear in this court in person or by a pleader duly instructed on the above date 23-07-2024 at 10-30 A.M in the forenoon to show cause against the application failing where in the said application will be heard and determined exparte.

G. MALYADRI, Advocate
Kavali Town, S.R.S.R. Nellore Dt.,
Andhra Pradesh. Cell No. 9849292151

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SRINIDHI, D/O :Sundarapandian Ramasamy, R/O: P–109, 7th Mn,Sector 10, LIC CLY,Jeevan Bhima NGR, BLR –75, Have changed my name as Srinidhi Sundarapandian Vide Afdvt Dtd 16/07/24

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE XII ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU
O.S. No. 5671/2023

Between
M/S ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara-390007 and branch office at: 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru-560068, through its authorised representative
Mr. Harish E. ...Plaintiff

And
M/s K. R. Avionics Private Limited & Another
...Defendant

SUM MONS TO DEFENDANT NO. 1 & 2 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V, RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant
1. M/s K. R. Avionics Private Limited, A Company registered under the Companies Act, 1956, Represented by its Director-Mr. K Venkata Krishna Reddy, O/at- 1, 10, 15, Dharsan Layout, Panathur Main Road, Outer Ring Road, Kadubisanahalli, Bangalore, Urban -560070
Registration Number-29AAFCK4341J1ZC
2. Mr. K Venkata Krishna Reddy, S/o Kapa Poli Reddy, Aged about 45 years, R/at - 10,7,15, Dharsan Layout, Panathur Main Road, Outer Ring Road, Kadubisanahalli, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560037 PAN No.-AGWPR0889G Phone No.-9964181888
Email ID-venkatakrishna.reddyk@kravionics.com

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of Rs. 16,05,727/- along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the XII Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H.-27), in person or by a pleader, on the day of 17.08.2024 at 11:00 A.M to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 11th day of July, 2024 at Bangalore.

By Order of the Court
Assistant Registrar
Hon'ble City Civic Court
Bangalore

Advocate for Plaintiff.
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners,
Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner
'A', 3, Queens Road,
Bengaluru -01

BEIJING

China halts nuclear arms talks with U.S. over Taiwan weapons sales

REUTERS

China said on Wednesday it had suspended negotiations with the United States on nuclear non-proliferation and arms control in response to Washington's weapons sales to Taiwan. The U.S. and China had in November held rare talks on nuclear arms control, part of a bid to ease mistrust between Joe Biden and Xi Jinping. AFP

TEHRAN

Iran rejects accusations that it was part of plots to assassinate Trump

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Iran has rejected accusations regarding plots to assassinate former U.S. President Donald Trump, the state-run *IRNA* news agency reported on Wednesday. *IRNA* quoted Foreign Ministry spokesperson Nasser Kanaani as saying Iran "strongly rejects any involvement in the recent armed attack on Trump". AP

LOS ANGELES

Top Democrat Adam Schiff calls on Biden to exit presidential race

AFP

Representative Adam Schiff on Wednesday became the most heavyweight Democrat so far to publicly urge U.S. President Joe Biden to step aside for another candidate to face Donald Trump. He called on his ally to "pass the torch". Mr. Schiff praised Mr. Biden but said that he doubts that the 81-year-old can defeat Mr. Trump. AFP

BAGHDAD

Drones target Iraq base housing U.S.-led coalition: security sources

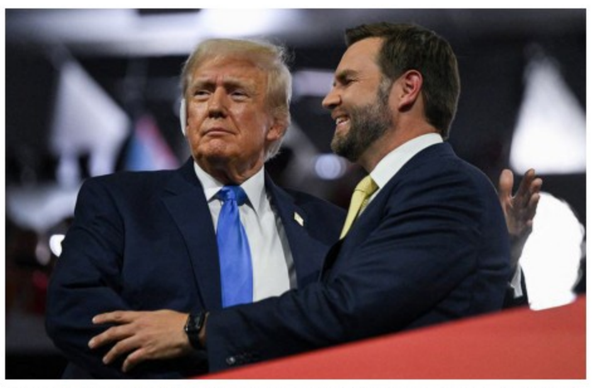
AP

Two drones were launched against a base in Iraq where forces of the U.S.-led anti-jihadist coalition are stationed, security officials said on Wednesday. "One drone was shot down outside the base by defence systems, and the second exploded inside the base without causing any injuries or damage," a police official said. AFP

Trump's pick of J.D. Vance for VP signals shift away from Ukraine war

I gotta be honest with you, I don't really care what happens to Ukraine one way or another as a country, the Ohio Senator said in April; he believes Europe has relied on the U.S. for security for far too long, and wants Washington to focus on Asia

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON



Donald Trump and Republican vice presidential nominee J.D. Vance at the Republican National Convention on Tuesday. REUTERS

Donald Trump picked J.D. Vance – a staunch opponent of aid for Kyiv who wants Washington to refocus on Asia – as his running mate, signalling a potential shift away from Europe if the Republican candidate wins in November.

Mr. Vance, a 39-year-old retired U.S. Marine and best-selling author, is ideologically close to the former President, and his views on foreign policy could help shape Mr. Trump's second term in office if he defeats Democrat Joe Biden.

"I gotta be honest with you, I don't really care what happens to Ukraine one way or another as a country," the Senator from Ohio said on a podcast.

Mr. Vance was one of the fiercest opponents of the approval of $61 billion in new military aid for Ukraine, which was stalled by Republican lawmakers for months earlier this year – a time in which Russia made battlefield gains.

The U.S. has provided tens of billions of dollars in military assistance for Kyiv since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. But Mr. Vance and other Trump allies in Congress argue that Washington cannot continue to fund the war indefinitely, and a Trump victory in November would throw future American assistance for Ukraine into doubt.

Mr. Trump has said he would quickly end the conflict, raising the spectre that Kyiv could be pushed to negotiate with Moscow from an unfavourable position.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Monday he was not concerned about the prospect of another Trump presidency, despite indications his administration could be more sympathetic to the Kremlin.

"I think that if Donald Trump becomes President, we will work together. I'm not worried about this," Mr. Zelenskyy told a news conference.

Asked on Tuesday about the consequences of a Trump presidency for Ukraine, U.S. State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said both lawmakers and the American public continued support for Kyiv.

For Mr. Vance, European countries have relied on the U.S. for security for far too long. "NATO countries can't be welfare clients of the U.S.," Mr. Vance told *Fox News* in June, while he said in February that "we have been subsidising European security to the tune of trillions of dollars".

Republicans find 'god's plans' in Trump's escape

NEWS ANALYSIS

Varghese K. George

Senator Marco Rubio speaks at the Republican National Convention at Fiserv Forum in Milwaukee on Tuesday. REUTERS

Leaders, including many former critics and challengers, rallied behind Donald Trump on the second day of the Republican National Convention, several of them attributing to god his escape from an assassination attempt on July 13. Several of them cited the Bible, and suggested a divine plan in Mr. Trump's leadership of the party. "I saw President Trump, a dear friend escape death by mere inches, and my thoughts immediately turned to the book of Isaiah..That says no weapon formed against you shall prosper," Ben Carson, an African American leader who was an opponent of Mr. Trump in the 2016 primary and later a member of his Cabinet, said.

Two other primary opponents of Mr. Trump in 2016, Senators Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz, and Arkansas Governor Sarah Sanders were also among those cited godly plans in Mr. Trump's escape from death, which has become a key talking point among a section of his supporters, as is his show of courage in the aftermath. "The most repeated phrase in the Bible is, 'do not be afraid 'or 'fear not.' It appears 365 times in scripture," said Mr. Carson.

Mr. Trump's daughter-in-law and co-chair of the RNC, Lara Trump cited Proverbs to draw a stark contrast between the nominee and his opponents: "The wicked flee when no man pursues; But the righteous are bold as a lion."

"It (Mr. Trump's escape) reminds us that the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind is in the hands of god.." said Mr. Rubio, thanking Mr. Trump for "transforming our party". Mr. Rubio has travelled a long way from his stiff challenge to Mr. Trump in 2016.

Far from resisting the transformation of the party under Mr. Trump, both Senators are now among the loudest cheerleaders of it. Mr. Cruz, who was the last standing primary challenger to Mr. Trump in 2016, all the way until the Convention, was effusive in his praise for him this time. "I worked hand-in-hand with President Trump to reduce illegal immigration to this country to a 45-year low. We will do it again," he said, blaming illegal immigrants for crimes in the U.S.

Indian origin leaders

Two people of Indian origin – former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley and Ohio businessman Vivek Ramaswamy – featured among the evening speakers, at the Convention of a party that is accused by its critics of fanning nativism among the country's white population. Mr. Ramaswamy spoke on American identity, counting legal immigration as integral to it while arguing illegal immigration is in conflict with it. "America is built on the rule of law. You cannot enter this country by breaking the law."

Ms. Haley, whose primary challenge to Mr. Trump collapsed early on, made a turnaround by pledging her absolute endorsement of his candidacy. She said she was not in agreement with Mr. Trump on all issues but curiously bracketed her militarist, interventionist foreign policy doctrine with his largely non-interventionist one.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis who also made a short-lived attempt for nomination this time, fell behind Mr. Trump. Both Ms. Haley and Mr. DeSantis sought to keep their endorsement of Mr. Trump more as an opposition to the Democrats and the combination of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris on their ticket. In fact, Ms. Haley spent a considerable portion of her speech to portray the danger of Ms. Harris – whose mother was an Indian immigrant – ending up as President if Mr. Biden were to be elected again.

Back-channel talks with China under way, says Tibetan leader

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) has been holding back-channel talks with Chinese authorities "through a third country", Penpa Tsering, Sikyong or President of the CTA, said here on Wednesday. Speaking to a select group of media, Mr. Tsering, who is set to visit the U.S. after the enactment of the Resolve Tibet Act in Congress, said the CTA will counter the renaming of Tibetan territories by Chinese authorities by creating a map of Tibet that will carry the names of all the places of Tibet in Tibetan language.

"We have been having back-channel negotiations with the Chinese side. We do not have any expectation from these talks but we have to keep the engagements going as these are part of our long-term plans. We met in the first week of this month and the talks are being held with the help of a third country," said Sikyong Tsering, without explaining the level of the officers who are involved in these talks.

Chinese initiative

He further explained that the back-channel talks were started with the initiative from the Chinese side.

Sikyong Tsering described the Tibetan issue as a "conflict", saying terms like "Tibetan issue" or "dispute" do not convey the substance of the problem.

Taiwan 'should pay' U.S. for defence: Trump

Agence France-Presse
TAIPEI

Taiwan "should pay" the United States for defence, U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump said in a wide-ranging interview that has cast doubt on the relationship between Washginton and Taipei should he be re-elected in November.

In an interview with *Bloomberg Businessweek* published on Tuesday, the former President was asked if he would defend self-ruled Taiwan from China, which claims the island as part of its territory.

"I think, Taiwan should pay us for defence," he said, according to a transcript released by *Bloomberg*.

"You know, we're no different than an insurance company. Taiwan doesn't give us anything," he added.

While Washington does not diplomatically recognise the island, it is a key partner and major weapons provider to Taipei.

Sport

Scheffler and DeChambeau loom over McIlroy's bid for Major redemption

Vagaries of the weather: With the elements set to play a key role, it will interesting to see how the likes of McIlroy deal with it. AFP

BRITISH OPEN GOLF

Reuters
TROON (UK)

The list of potential winners of this week's British Open at Royal Troon is a long one as Rory McIlroy begins his latest bid to end a decade-long Major title drought.

McIlroy's misery continued in last month's U.S. Open where he agonisingly finished second – one shot behind American Bryson DeChambeau – after bogeying three of his last four holes. The pain of that loss took McIlroy a few days to process but, as he prepares for Thursday's opening round, he is feeling no added pressure in his quest to claim a fifth career Major. "I know that I'm in a good spot," the World No. 2 told reporters on Tuesday after playing his first practice round of the week.

"If I think about 2015 through 2020, that five-year stretch, I seldom had a realistic chance to win a Major championship in that five-year period. So I'd much rather have these close calls. It means that I'm getting closer."

McIlroy has not won a Major since the 2014 PGA Championship. McIlroy is in good form having tied for fourth at last week's Scottish Open.

The Open is the oldest of the four Majors and often the most unpredictable, given the vagaries of the weather and the fickle nature of links golf.

This year's championship, the 152nd edition, promises to be wide open. American World No. 1 and Masters champion Scottie Scheffler always seems to be in contention.

"I'm excited," said Scheffler, who has won six times on the PGA Tour this year in 15 starts. Ninth-ranked DeChambeau has played better than anyone in this year's Majors, having tied for sixth at the Masters and finished second at the PGA Championship before winning his second U.S. Open crown.

"I'm very confident, obviously," said DeChambeau.

Tiger Woods dismisses retirement suggestions

Troon
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Ready for the prowl: Woods says he will play as long as he can and feels like he can still win the event. GETTY IMAGES

Five years after winning his last Major, Tiger Woods said he is "busting it" in the gym and ready to mount a challenge for the Claret Jug when the British Open gets underway here on Thursday.

The 48-year-old also dismissed suggestions that he should retire from the game. Woods won the last of his 15 Majors at the 2019 Masters with his most recent professional victory coming later that year at the Zozo Championship.

And there is little doubt he has struggled since 2021 when he was involved in a car accident that almost led to him losing his right leg.

His hopes of turning back the clock have not been helped by tournaments favouring the biggest hitters as driving distances get longer but that is also key to his belief that Royal Troon may smile on him.

Accuracy has an edge over distance on the links course, boosting Woods' chances of at least making the cut. "The older you get the less you can carry the golf ball but over here, you can run the golf ball 100 yards if you get the right wind and the right trajectory," said Woods, who won the Open in 2000, 2005 and 2006.

BE FEARLESS

Express yourself in Paris: Kapil's advise the Games-bound athletes

SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Kapil Dev, on Wednesday, advised the Paris-bound Indian athletes to express themselves fearlessly at the mega event. "My advice to all (Indian athletes) would be to go and express themselves. Why not if we believe it (double-digit medal haul) will happen in the 2024 Olympic Games."

NEW ROLE

Anderson to act as bowling mentor for England in WI Test series

GETTY IMAGES

Following his retirement from international cricket after the first Test at Lord's against the West Indies, James Anderson has joined the England side as the bowling mentor for the remaining two matches of the series. The second Test between England and the West Indies will start on Thursday at Trent Bridge, Nottingham.

RECOGNITION

Pavilion End of Trent Bridge stadium to be named after Broad

AP

The Pavilion End of the Trent Bridge will be named after Stuart Broad ahead of the second Test between England and West Indies. Broad, one of the greatest bowlers produced by England, also represented Nottinghamshire (he was born there) from 2008-2023. The county also uses Trent Bridge as its home ground.

ON TOP

Olympic champion Carapaz wins Tour de France Stage 17

AP

Ecuador's Richard Carapaz won Stage 17 of the Tour de France after the remnants of a breakaway finished ahead of the main pretenders in the High Alps on Wednesday. Overall leader Tadej Pogacar extended his lead by a few seconds over Jonas Vingegaard, albeit with Remco Evenepoel finishing 12 seconds ahead of both of them.

117 athletes to carry India's hopes at the Olympics

Apart from the competitors, 140 support staff will also take the flight to Paris; IOA president Usha says she will ensure there is no delay in athletes' non-accredited support staff getting visas

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

As many as 117 athletes from 16 disciplines and a bigger number of support staff – 140 in all – will represent India in the Paris Olympics. In comparison to the pandemic-affected Tokyo Games, where the country's women's hockey team played, India was represented by a 228-strong contingent, including 127 athletes.

Another shot at glory: Neeraj will aim for a second successive gold at the Games. FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

Khatua misses out

Shot putter Abha Khatua's name was not there in the list even though she made the cut through world rankings. It was not clear what was the reason behind her omission.

This time, the addition of sports science personnel has also contributed to the increase of the support staff number.

"The athletes are at the centre of our planning and preparation. Instead of the usual 3:1 ratio between athletes and support staff, we have worked hard to change it to a slightly better than 1:1," said Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president P.T. Usha.

"For the first time, a 13-member sports science team under Chief Medical Officer Dr. Dinshaw Pardiwala will be in Paris to provide support," Usha said, adding that a recovery centre would be there in the Athletes' Village.

Usha said she would ensure there were no delays in any athletes' non-accredited support staff getting their visas. She promised to take up the case of 53kg World championships bronze medallist wrestler Antim Panghal's coach Bhagat Singh, physiotherapist Heera and sparring partner Vikas with the France embassy.

"The ad-hoc committee administering wrestling chose not to include the names of Antim's coach or physiotherapist in the long list of names sent to the Olympic Games Organising Committee." Usha said it was "strange" that the responsible authorities, who approved the long list, did not deem it fit to recommend the inclusion of Antim's support staff even though she got a quota place.

Indians at Paris 2024

The list of participants in various events

Athletics: Men: Sarvesh Kushare (high jump); Suraj Panwar (marathon race walk mixed relay); Akshdeep Singh, Vikash Singh, Paramjeet Bisht (20km race walk); Kishore Jena, Neeraj Chopra (javelin); Muhammed Anas, Muhammed Ajmal, Amoj Jacob, S. Tamilarasan, Rajesh Ramesh (4x400m relay); Avinash Sable (3000m steeplechase); Tajinderpal Singh Toor (shot put); Abdulla Aboobacker, Praveen Chithravel (triple jump); Jeswin Aldrin (long jump)

Women: Annu Rani (javelin); Parul Chaudhary (3000m steeplechase, 5000m); Kiran Pahal (400m, 4x400m relay); Jyothi Yarraji (100mH); Ankita Dhyani (5000m); Priyanka Goswami (20km race walk and marathon race walk mixed relay); Jyothika Sri Dandi, Subha Venkatesan, Vithya Ramraj, Poovamma (4x400m relay)

Reserves: Prachi, Mijo Kurian

Archery: Recurve: Men: Dhiraj Bommadevara, Tarundeep Rai, Pravin Jadhav; **Women:** Bhajan Kaur, Deepika Kumari, Ankita Bhakat

Badminton: Men: H.S. Prannoy, Lakshya Sen (singles); Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty (doubles)

Women: P.V. Sindhu (singles); Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto (doubles)

Boxing: Men: Amit Panghal (51kg); Nishant Dev (71kg)

Women: Nikhat Zareen (50kg); Preeti Pawar (54kg); Jaismine Lamboria (57kg); Lovlina Borgohain (75kg)

Equestrian: Anush Agarwalla (Dressage individual)

Golf: Men: Gaganjeet Bhullar, Shubhankar Sharma

Women: Aditi Ashok, Diksha Dagar

Hockey: Men: P.R. Sreejesh, Jarmanpreet Singh, Amit Rohidas, Harmanpreet Singh, Sumit, Sanjay, Rajkumar Pal, Shamsher Singh, Manpreet Singh, Hardik Singh, Vivek Sagar, Prasad, Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Mandeep Singh, Gurjant Singh

Reserves: Nilakanta Sharma, Jugraj Singh, Krishan Bahadur Pathak

Judo: Tulika Maan (women's +78kg)

Rowing: Balraj Panwar (men's single scull)

Sailing: Vishnu Saravanan (men's dinghy) and Nethra Kumanan (women's dinghy)

Shooting: Men: Sandeep Singh, Arjun Babuta (10m air rifle); Aishwary Tomar, Swapnil Kusale (50m rifle 3-position); Sarabjot Singh, Arjun Cheema (10m air pistol); Anish Bhanwal, Vijayveer Sidhu (25m rapid fire pistol); Prithviraj Tondaiman (trap); Anantjeet Singh Naruka (skeet and skeet mixed team)

Women: Elavenil Valarivan, Ramita Jindal (10m air rifle); Sift Kaur Samra, Anjum Moudgil (50m rifle 3-position); Rhythm Sangwan (10m air pistol); Manu Bhaker (10m air pistol and 25m pistol); Esha Singh (25m pistol); Rajeshwari Kumari, Shreyasi Singh (trap); Maheshwari Chauhan (skeet and skeet mixed team); Raiza Dhillon (skeet)

Swimming: Men: Srihari Nataraj (100m backstroke)

Women: Dhinidhi Desinghu (200m freestyle)

Table tennis: Men: Sharath Kamal, Harmeet Desai, Manav Thakkar

Women: Manika Batra, Sreeja Akula, Archana Kamath

Reserves: G. Sathiyan, Ayhika Mukherjee

Tennis: Sumit Nagal (men's singles); Rohan Bopanna and Sriram Balaji (men's doubles)

Weightlifting: Mirabai Chanu (women's 49kg)

Wrestling: Men: Aman Sehrawat (57kg)

Women: Vinesh Phogat (50kg); Antim Panghal (53kg); Anshu Malik (57kg); Nisha Dahiya (68kg); Reetika Hooda (76kg)

Clarity: Sift said she makes it a point to keep her mind clear. FILE PHOTO: RITU RAJ KONWAR

Free-spirited Sift up for the Paris Games challenge

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Sift Kaur Samra banks on her clarity of thought. The Punjab shooter does not feel the pressure while approaching Paris 2024, where she will compete in women's 50m rifle 3 positions, as she treats it as just another competition.

While many athletes shut themselves from distractions before the Olympics, Sift maintains a normal routine. She doesn't mind becoming a guest on a comedy show, the *Great Indian Kapil Show*, on Netflix.

"I think your mind is the strongest thing. The more you keep it clear, the more important it is for you. For me, to keep things clear is one thing. The second is to be happy. We are doing everything for happiness," Sift told *The Hindu* from her training base in Luxembourg.

Apart from her skills, Sift relies on her mind and her psychologist. "My mind works a lot because I observe people. I keep thinking why they are taking so much tension.

"I have just started talking to a psychologist, Akshata. She is with the team. My mind matches with hers a lot. She listens to me and that's why I love her. If I want to talk about anything, I go to her. She keeps me away from everything."

The 22-year-old World No. 18 takes pressure positively. "It's just that you go and compete as you compete in other tournaments. Nothing special, nothing different, nothing new.

"I participated in the Munich World Cup (in June and got a bronze medal) to learn about the athletes who will be competing in the Olympics. Preparation is good. The result of the exam will tell you how it was."

Sift - who won the Asian Games individual gold with a world record of 469.6 - may not meet her idol, double Olympic medallist shuttler P.V. Sindhu, during the Olympics as the shooting venue, Chateauroux, is 270km from Paris, but hopes the badminton legend will achieve a new feat.

"At the Asian Games, what she said after (my) world record was really good. Hopefully, this year also she will get a medal."

England set to begin life without spearhead Anderson

WI IN ENGLAND

Agence France-Presse
NOTTINGHAM

England captain Ben Stokes believes "phenomenal" Chris Woakes can lead his team's bowling attack as it starts life without James Anderson as the new-ball spearhead.

Anderson retired from international duty following an innings and 114-run rout of the West Indies in the first Test at Lord's last week.

The 41-year-old took 704 Test wickets –the most by any fast bowler in the format's history –during an England record 188 matches. The match will also be the first time since 2012 that England has played a home Test without either Anderson or Broad. But England still has seam-bowling experience in Woakes, who will be playing his 50th Test this week.

"I see it as an opportunity for someone like Woakesy to take on more of a leadership role in the bowling unit," Stokes told a pre-match press conference on Wednesday.

"We've been so used to Jimmy and Broady doing that, so it's a great opportunity for him. He's a very experienced player and a phenomenal performer, particularly in England.

"It's great for him to be able to lead the attack and 50 caps is a huge honour."

Atkinson took 12 wickets on his debut in Anderson's farewell Test and hit speeds of 90mph (145kph).

England has made one change for the second Test against the West Indies by bringing in pacer Mark Wood for the retired James Anderson.

With England rebuilding ahead of the 2025/26 Ashes in Australia, Stokes is looking forward to having Atkinson and Wood at his disposal for the foreseeable future.

England could be forced into a late change if the partner of opening batsman Ben Duckett gives birth before Thursday's toss, with Dan Lawrence on standby.

Big shoes to fill: Wood will replace Anderson. GETTY IMAGES

Nadal. AFP

Nadal advances to second round in the Nordea Open

Associated Press
BASTAD

Rafael Nadal returned to singles action with a 6-3, 6-4 victory on clay over Leo Borg, the 21-year-old son of Swedish great Bjorn Borg, in the first round of the Nordea Open in Bastad on Tuesday.

"For me it has been a huge honour to play against the son of one of the biggest legends in the history of our sport," Nadal said about his 21-year-old opponent. "I think he played quite well, he has a future in front so I wish him all the very best."

Nadal won the singles title in southern Sweden as a 19-year-old in 2005 and this week is his first time back since then as he prepares for the Olympic tournament on clay at Roland Garros in Paris.Nadal was playing his first singles match since he lost in the first round of the French Open to Alexander Zverev. He teamed up with Casper Ruud on Monday to win a first-round doubles match.

APC appoints Deepa as representative for South Asia

Responsibility: Deepa said it is time for her to contribute in the collective growth of para-sports. FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India's first woman Paralympic medallist Deepa Malik has been named sub-regional representative for South Asia by the Asian Paralympic Committee (APC).

This appointment, which was confirmed during the 34th Executive Board meeting of the APC, signifies a significant step forward for gender diversity and athlete-centric leadership in para-sports. She will take up her post immediately.

The former Paralympic Committee of India chief's appointment brings the number of female representatives on the APC Executive Board to five, making it the highest female representation on the board in the history of the organisation, according to a media release.

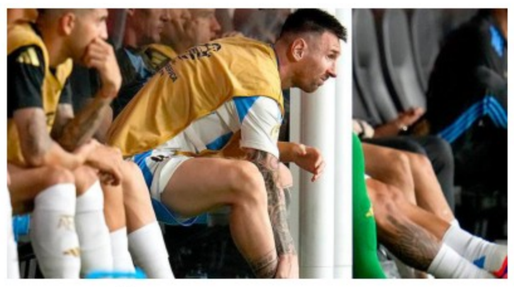
"Having more women during our Executive Board meetings is a very positive step forward, especially when one voice is of someone with the experience, skills and wisdom of Dr. Deepa Malik," APC President Majid Rashed said. Deepa's role will involve representing South Asian nations and advocating for the development and promotion of para-sports across the region.

Honour

"It is an honour and an opportunity for me to represent South Asia and be a voice for our region. India for long is a flag bearer of *Vasudev Kutumbakam* and now is also a right time to take a step forward in taking the lead in contributing to this one big family," Deepa said.

"It's time for me to represent India at a bigger level and contribute in the collective growth of para-sports and 'inclusion through sports' at large," she added.

INBRIEF



Injured Messi to miss Inter Miami's next two matches

Lionel Messi will miss Inter Miami's next two Major League Soccer matches after injuring his right ankle in Argentina's Copa America final triumph, Miami coach Gerardo Martino said on Tuesday. "There will be further testing to determine the severity of the situation. He has to have more tests and wait for the results."

Bawa loses to top seed Zakaria in the semifinals

India's Shaurya Bawa lost to Egyptian top seed and last year's runner-up Mohamed Zakaria 5-11, 5-11, 9-11 in the boys' singles semifinals of the World junior squash championships in Houston on Tuesday. Bawa is only the second Indian male after Kush Kumar (in 2014) to reach the World junior semifinals and will collect a bronze medal.

Spanish football federation chief handed two-year ban

Days after Spain triumphed in the Euro 2024 final, the country's football federation (RFEF) suffered a new scandal as its president Pedro Rocha was handed a two-year suspension, according to media reports on Tuesday. Spanish media outlets *Onda Cero* and *Iusport* reported that Spain's Administrative Tribunal of Sport (TAD) suspended Rocha due to his making of decisions outside of his power, such as his dismissal of the federation's general secretary Andreu Camps.

Lozano fired as Mexico coach two weeks after Copa exit

Jaime Lozano has been fired as head coach two weeks after Mexico's first-round exit at the Copa America. The Mexican Football Federation on Tuesday said Lozano declined its offer to stay and work as an assistant to the next coach for two years and potentially take over again after the 2026 World Cup. "This was one of the toughest decision I have to make," Lozano said on his official social media accounts. "It is a matter of principles and it's because of the change of direction from the original project."

Gill and Jaiswal make big gains in T20I rankings

The big-hitting Suryakumar Yadav is the highest placed Indian at second spot, while Yashasvi Jaiswal occupies the sixth position in the ICC T20I batting rankings issued on Wednesday. Ruturaj Gaikwad has dropped a place to the eighth position in the T20 batters' list, which was updated following India's recent 4-1 series triumph over Zimbabwe. Jaiswal rose four places, behind the No. 1 ranked Travis Head and Suryakumar. Shubman Gill, who led India against Zimbabwe and was the leading run-scorer of the series with 170 runs from five innings, moved up a whopping 36 places to 37th. No Indian features in the top 10 in the bowlers rankings. Axar Patel, who was rested for the Zimbabwe series, dropped four places to the 13th spot.

Billie Jean King Cup final to move from Sevilla to Malaga

The Billie Jean King Cup will switch venue from Sevilla to Malaga for this year's finals, organisers said on Wednesday. The tournament – formerly known as the Fed Cup – will be played alongside the men's Davis Cup Final 8 at the Palacio de Deportes Jose Maria Martin Carpena Arena in November. The scheduled dates for both tournaments have not been altered. The finals will run from November 13-20.

Salukvadze set for her 10th Olympics

The Georgian shooter, who has taken part since the 1988 Seoul Games and has medals in all three hues, is fulfilling her late father's request

Drawing level: Salukvadze will match Canadian equestrian Ian Millar's record of 10 appearances when she competes in Paris. AP

Reuters
NEW DELHI

Nino Salukvadze will become just the second athlete to compete at 10 Olympic Games when she steps up to the mark in Paris and the Georgian shooting great says that by reaching the milestone she will have fulfilled her father's last request.

Salukvadze's dream Olympic debut came as a 19-year-old at the 1988 Games in Seoul, where she won gold in the 25 metre pistol and silver in the 10 metre event for the former Soviet Union. And she has not missed an Olympics since.

Salukvadze completed her medal set by winning the 10m bronze in Beijing (2008), this time for Georgia, and the 55-year-old will match Canadian equestrian Ian Millar's record of 10 Olympic appearances when she competes in Paris.

"Ten Olympiads – it's my whole life," said Salukvadze from Baku where she is in the final stages of her Olympic preparations. "After the first Olympics, I couldn't even imagine I'd compete in 10 Olympics."

There were times when it seemed the Tokyo Olympics would be the end of her story.

"After Tokyo, I'd decided to give up," she said. "But my father, who was 93, told me, 'There are only three years before Paris, and maybe you try to win the quota ...' I thought my father had never asked for anything and this might be his last request. So I gathered all my strength and agreed. Today, despite the fact that my father passed away, I am happy that I fulfilled this request."

Her son put the pressure on, too. "Also, my son threatened me: 'If you surrender, I will also surrender...'"

For the Paris Games, the shooting events will be held 270km to the north in Chateauroux and Salukvadze says moving them away from the main venue cluster goes against that spirit of togetherness. "I feel a little sad that we will not be in the Olympic Village in Paris. These Olympic Games are held more like a championship," she said. "The essence of the Olympics is that everyone should live together during that one month."

Constructive measures: Paris Mayor Hidalgo is keen to see swimming in the Seine at the Paris Games. AFP

Seine swimming: Parisian tradition revived at Olympics

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo took the plunge on Wednesday when she jumped into the river Seine in Paris to show the water was clean enough to host Olympic swimming events starting later this month.

Hidalgo is the latest VIP to cleave through the river's murky waters, after Sports Minister Amelie Oudea-Castera on Saturday.

Despite a major clean-up, many Parisians still recoil at the idea of swimming in a river that regularly tests for high levels of bacteria caused by faecal matter.

But up until 1923, when it was banned due to pollution and the danger from passing river barges, it was a popular pastime.

Here is a brief history of Seine swimming. In the 17th century, before the revolution that toppled France's monarchy, bathing in the Seine was a fashionable pastime. By the end of the century Seine swimming remained popular, with floating pools installed along the banks.

Some diehards continued to slip on their speedos until the practice was officially banned in 1923.

Current Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo revived the dream when bidding for the French capital to get the 2024 Games, promising swimming events in the Seine.

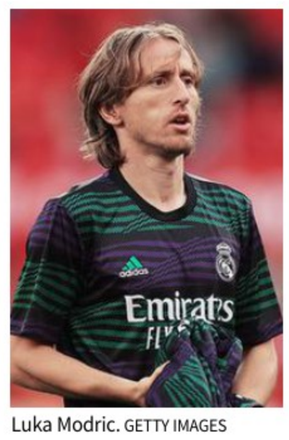
Massive investment

Some €1.4 billion ($1.5 billion) has been invested to make the Seine and its main tributary, the Marne, swimmable, notably by improving waste water collection management.

A key feature of the project involved building a massive underground rainwater storage tank near Austerlitz train station to hold excess waste water to ensure it does not flow into the Seine.

The swimming leg of the Olympics triathlon is set to take place in its waters on July 30-31 and August 5, followed by the open-water swimming on August 8 and 9.

Luka Modric extends Real deal by one year



Luka Modric. GETTY IMAGES

Agence France-Presse
MADRID

Real Madrid's Luka Modric has signed a new one-year deal to keep him at the Santiago Bernabeu for the upcoming season, the European champion announced on Wednesday.

The 38-year-old midfielder extended his contract until June 30, 2025.

Modric has won six Champions League titles, LaLiga four times and lifted the *Copa del Rey* twice with Real Madrid.

He has only started 37 times across the last two league seasons, but remains a key player for coach Carlo Ancelotti.

"I'd like to keep playing forever but there will probably be a time I'll have to hang up my boots," Modric said after the agonising 1-1 draw with Italy which put Croatia out.

"I'll keep playing on, I don't know for how much longer."

Madrid will kick off its league title defence at Real Mallorca on Sunday, August 18.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Vidhatri in the van

Vidhatri Urs shot a three-under 68 first round to take the lead in Leg 9 of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour at Clover Greens near here on Wednesday.

The scores (top two): 68: Vidhatri Urs; **69:** Sneha Singh, Saanvi Somu, Karishma Govind.

Akaash still ahead

Akaash Ashok Kumar held on to the lead in Round 2 of the Karnataka State-ranking tenpin bowling tournament at Amoeba Bowling Center on Wednesday. R. Kishan (total pinfall 2487), in second position, trails Akaash by 81 pins.

In the women's category, P. Geetha topped the table at the end of Round 2 with total pinfall of 2003, at an average of 166.92.

Meghana stars for DYES Mysore

Meghana (24 points) powered DYES Mysore past DYES Vidyanagar in the State women's basketball league here.

The results: JSC 67 (Sanjana 22, Aadhya 21) bt Young Orion's SC 63 (Sarayu 20); Mounts Club 59 (Pavani 24) bt Southern Blues 48 (Nidhi 16, Diya 15); Beagles BC 73 (Sanjana 19, Chandana 18, Mekhala 15) bt Rajmahal BC 55 (Nikitha 15, Aadhya 12).

DYES Mysore 83 (Meghana 24, Preethi 13, Shakthi 10) bt DYES Vidyanagar 37 (Deepika 15); DYES Mysore 50 (Yashaswini 19, Aishwarya 15) bt Southern Blues 43 (Nidhi 11); Beagles BC 72 (Sanjana 16, Chandana 13) bt JSC 33; Mounts Club 60 (Hannah 16, Nilaaya 12, Nidhi 12) bt DYES Vidyanagar 39 (Deepika 17).

Easy for Sarvagna Nagar MLA Constituency

Sarvagna Nagar MLA Constituency took out KR Puram MLA Constituency 3-0 in the quarterfinal of the Chief Minister Cup football tournament here. In another quarterfinal, CV Raman Nagar MLA Constituency beat BTM Layout MLA Constituency 2-0.

Chethan and Lankesh hit big tons for Coles CC

L.R. Chethan (177) and K.S. Lankesh (157) starred for Coles CC against Friends Union CC (1) in the KSCA Group I, Division I league here.

The scores: Friends Union CC (1) 277 in 87.1 overs (B.U. Shivakumar 104, Mithun Bhat 28, Utham Aiyappa 41, I.G. Anil 28, S. Suraj 4/75) drew with Coles CC 394/5 in 52.5 overs (L.R. Chethan 177, K.S. Lankesh 157, Vinay Sagar 42).

Swastic Union CC (2) 308 in 71 overs (Yashwant 53, Aneeshwar Gautam 134, Mohsin Khan 43, B.M. Shreyas 5/80) drew with Cambridge CC 89 in 38.2 overs (Prithvi Sadanand 35, Mohsin Khan 8/30) and 159/7 in 56 overs (Clement Rajmohan 51, Adhoksh 3/46).

Sir Syed Cricketers 157 in 67.3 overs (Atharv Malviya 26, Luvnith Sisodia 51, P. Dhruv 44 n.o., V. Koushik 5/43) drew with Rajajinagar Cricketers 162/5 in 50.3 overs (Sanjay Ashwin 35, Rahul Prasanna 43).

Bangalore Occasionals 179 in 53.4 overs (Melu Kranthi Kumar 43, Suraj Ahuja 34, Rajvir Wadhwa 38, M.B. Darshan 5/48, Goutham Mishra 3/47) and 108/3 in 33 overs (Bhuvan Raju 42, Kush Marathe 28 n.o.) drew with Mount Joy CC 143 in 52.5 overs (Samarth Srinivas 28, Bhuvan Raju 4/25).

Swastic Union (1) 230 in 72.4 overs (E.J. Jasper 91, Abhishek Ahlawat 3/45) and 19 for no loss in 3 overs drew with Vultures CC 313 in 76 overs (R. Smaran 170 n.o., Praveen Dubey 40, Sankalp Shettennavar 3/62, Abhilash 3/59).

Bangalore United CC (1) 335/7 in 90 overs (Tushar Singh 116, Kishan Bedare 67, M. Arsalaan 40, Pranav Bhatia 49 n.o., Shreesha Achar 3/116) drew with Social Cricketers 289 in 83.5 overs (Lochan Gowda 38, S.H. Swaroop 103, Ritesh Bhatkal 89, Vidyadhar Patil 3/27, Pranav Bhatia 4/89).

LIVE TELECAST

England vs West Indies: 2nd Test, day 1, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 3.30 p.m.

TNPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & FanCode, 7.15 p.m.

Cycling: Tour de France, Eurosport (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.